BIG SPIRITS COMICS SPECIAL
伊藤悠
シュトヘル
5
伊藤悠
BIG SPIRITS COMICS SPECIAL
小学館
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BIGSPIRITS COMICS SPECIAL

# 神謡

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# シャドーハウス

5

伊藤悠

小学館

# 潜航

5

伊藤 悠

*Itoh Yu*

BIG SPIRITS COMICS SPECIAL

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*The characters on the cover flap are Tangut script for 'yin and yang'

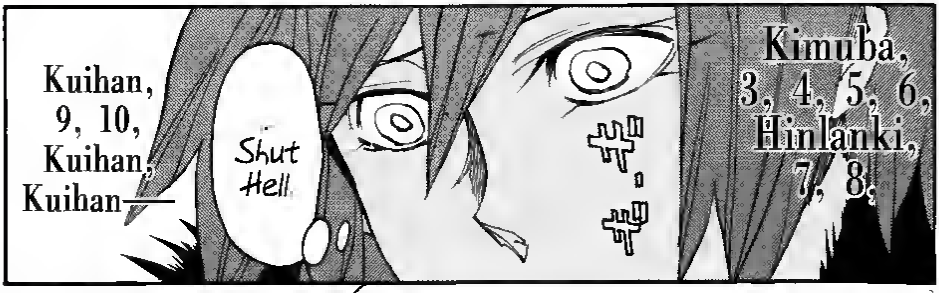
—Several days have passed since we were captured by a small unit of Jin soldiers.
Rapeseed oil.
The highest quality, from over the mountains.
They're coming back from their looting by way of who knows how many bases.

# Chapter XXX Arrival

Alright
As usual,
or to escape.
or to take back the Voice of Jade hanging at his hip,
I'm lucky they're giving me a wide berth because I'm a 'she-wolf' or whatever ...
but I also haven't gotten a chance close to that gorilla.

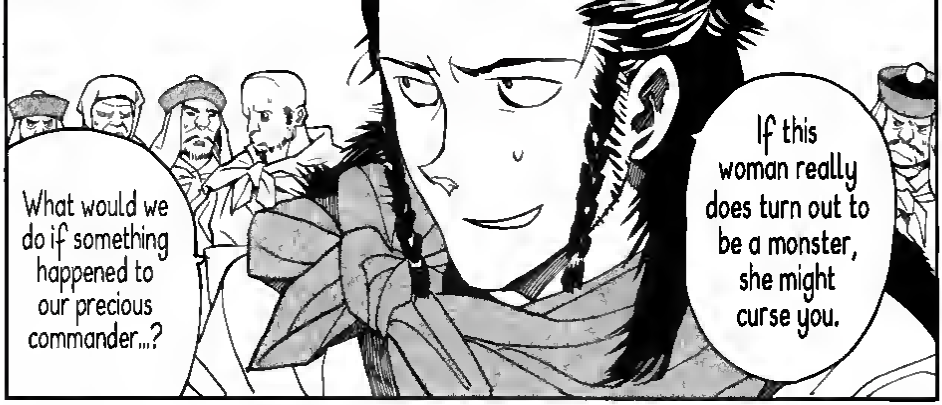
I'M COM-PLETELY USE-LESS...
So, what character should we memorize first?
Yurul...
Why don't we start with 'sleep' or 'eat'?
2
1、
2、3、4、
My hand won't stop.

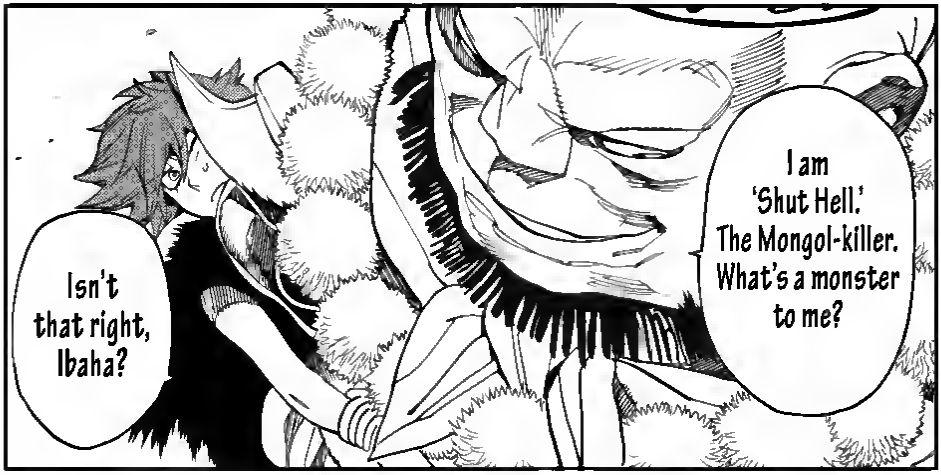
ガタガタ
ガタ
ガタガタ
The characters I know are repeating.
Kimuba, Hinlanki, Kuihan.
5、6、7、8、9、10、


Kuihan, 9, 10, Kuihan, Kuihan——
Shut Hell
ギ・ギ
Kimuba, 3, 4, 5, 6, Hinlanki, 7, 8,

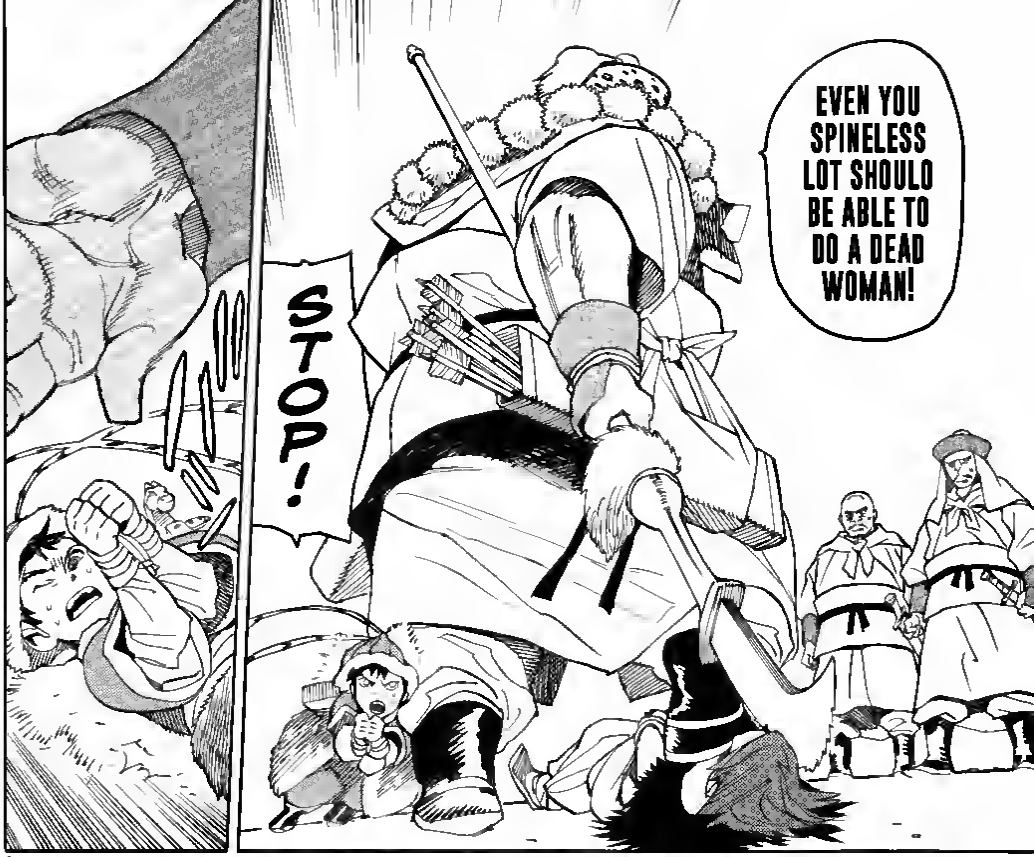
...! In that case...
Yurul! Your——
So, you remember something besides your hatred for the Mongols...
I guess there's no way you'd want to forget everything.

Gah ...!
Su- doh!
COME HERE, ALL OF YOU!
Alright, let's not get too hasty.
Million to one chances still happen, right?
The one who's got you all scared witless isn't a monster, and she's not a wolf, either.
Do you see?


What would we do if something happened to our precious commander...?
If this woman really does turn out to be a monster, she might curse you.


Isn't that right, Ibaha?
I am 'Shut Hell.' The Mongol-killer. What's a monster to me?

I lose my appetite for things my subordinates lay claim to.
But...
おしかけ
YOU'VE GOTTEN QUITE IMPUDENT.
IF YOU JUST STAY QUIET AND LET ME TEST THE WOMAN, I DOUBT I'LL EVEN GET BITTEN.


EVEN YOU SPINELESS LOT SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO A DEAD WOMAN!
STOP!

I'm one thing, but you've got to be a real idiot to hurt him.
What a waste.
Do you know how much that'll lower the ransom money you can...
Geh ...

SUDOH!!!!
This is my limit ...
I can't protect you anymore.
Make the kid behave!
Ibaha!
Sudoh... You're putting the kid first, even at a time like this?
You'll die.
!

The brat.
...!
DOES HE THINK HE STANDS A CHA...
HA HA

SLICE

...You tricked me, didn't you—?
...You...
Acting like you couldn't even kill a fly...

Yurul ...!
Even though I come here so that you wouldn't have to do things like that...!
Shit... Sorry, Yurul ...
I'm sorry ...!
Because ... I'm weak...!
tear

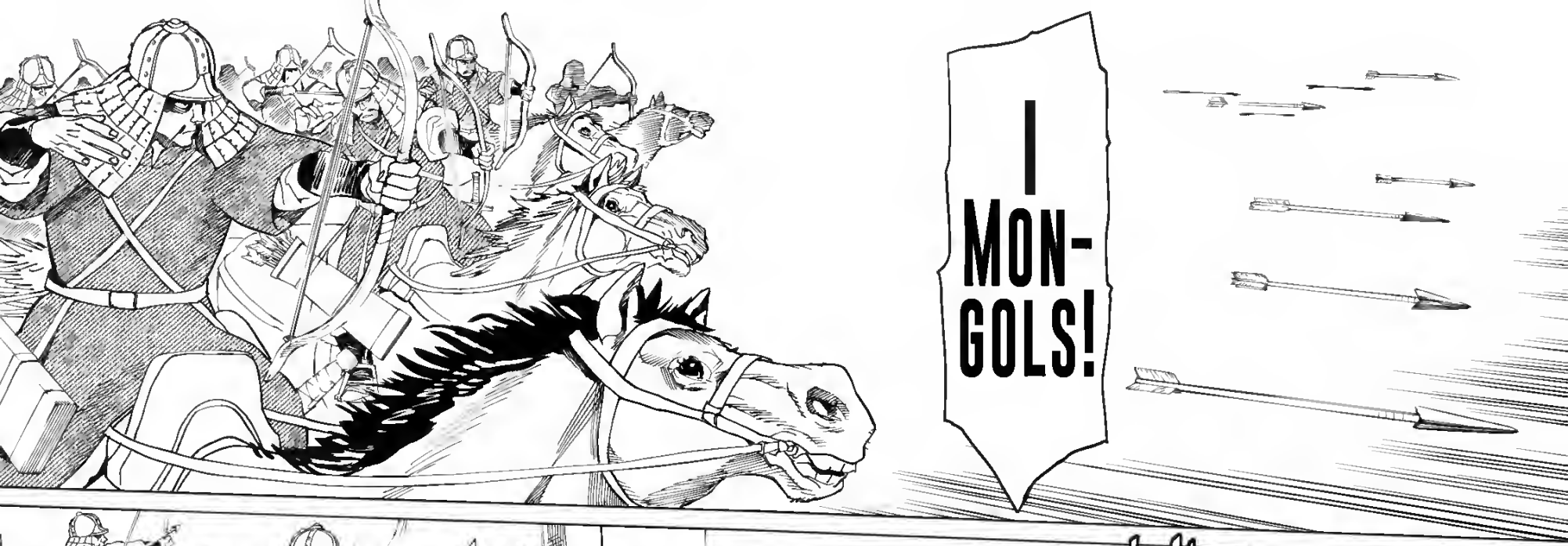
How did my life end up like this...?
I'll get the bundles off his waist
Sigh
Sigh
I really wish I could have lived a long, peaceful life.
... I messed up
by falling for you, when you're so desperate to protect that kid.

YA-RAL-TU...!
KU-WAH!
Those are ...
Hey ...

15

WE'LL KILL YOU ALL TOGETHER!
LOOK'S LIKE THE WOMAN'S DRIVEN YOU MAD, IBAHA!
If we manage to make it out of this, at least
You could show some remorse for this situation, you know
Sorry... Ibaha But what—

14

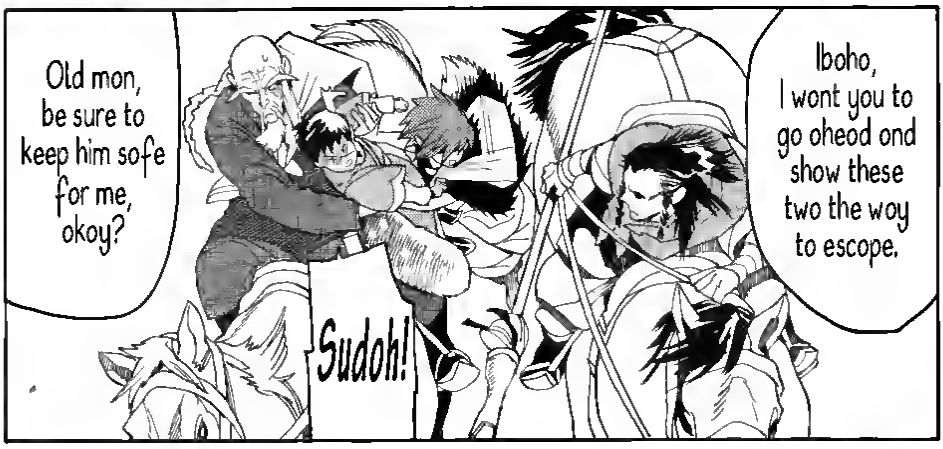

I MON-GOLS!

THEY' RE NOTHING BUT A BANDIT RABBLE!
SO, THESE ARE THE SOLDIERS OF JIN?
ドドドド
ドドドド
ドドドド
THE LOOKOUTS! WHAT WERE THE LOOKOUTS DOING!?
ドドドド
WAAA-AHH...!
ドドドド
SMASH

So, you're coming out.
Shut
Hell.

A punitive force from the central steppe!?
These are different from the garrisons made up of border tribes

We won't make it out riding double on two horses.
We'll escape the way that eagle's going!
Hurry! We'll all be killed!


Old man, be sure to keep him safe for me, okay?
Sudoh!
Iboho, I want you to go ahead and show these two the way to escape.

You can't, Sudoh!
follow after us and reflect on your actions...!
Fine! But you'd better
Shit...

Even if you can't believe in yourself, you have to go on for me!
YURUL! I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
19
For the one who died for you,
and the one who's living for you—

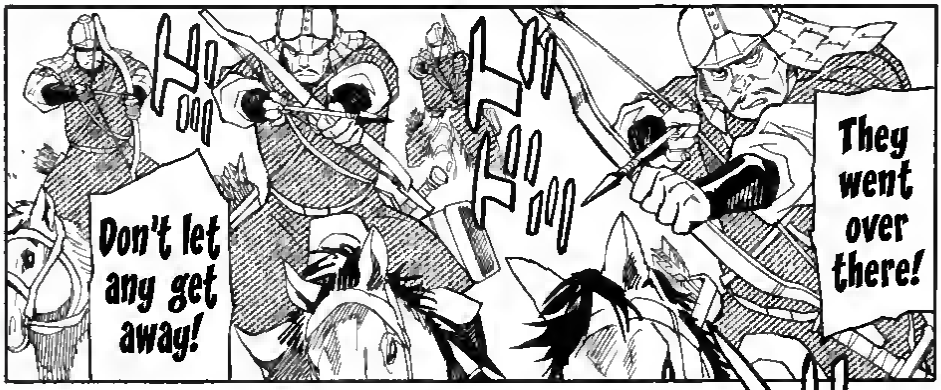
RUN!

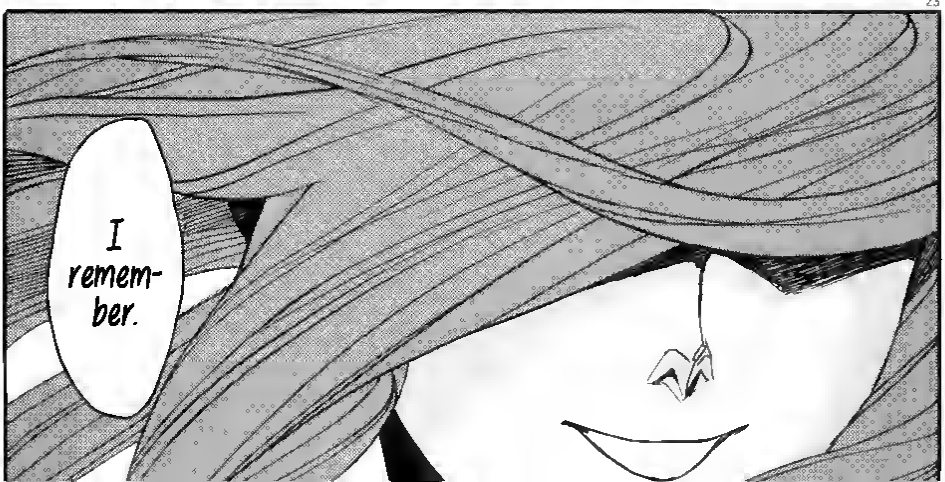
ドドドドド
Whinney!
……!
…Su-doh!

WE'LL MEET AGAIN,
I'M SURE OF IT!
WE'LL MEET AGAIN...!

When that time comes, Yurui,
I'll have you teach me how to write your name.
... So that Shut Hell will remember you.

... Looks like you'll get o chonce to see the reol thing before you die.


Don't let any get away!
They went over there!


I remember.

I REMEMBER WHAT YOU BASTARDS CALLED ME.

THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
OOF!

ドドドドド
27
OIL ...!
whinney
ボ
ボ
ブシュ
ズル
Grrrrrrnnn!
ド

GIIY-YAA
AAAAAAA
AAAH...
ROAR
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE

29
ke-heh.
heh heh heh heh.

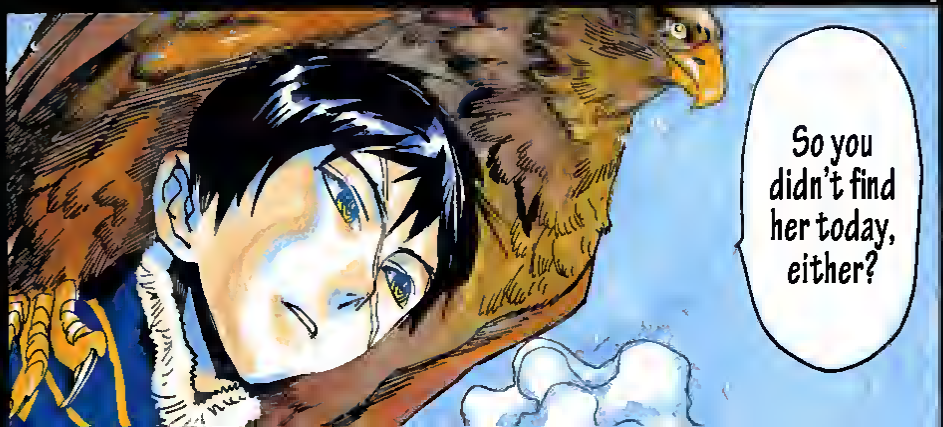
28
Gyah!
Gyah!
Gyah!
heh heh heh.
heh heh.

... That's ...!
It can't be ...

'Shut Hell' —...!

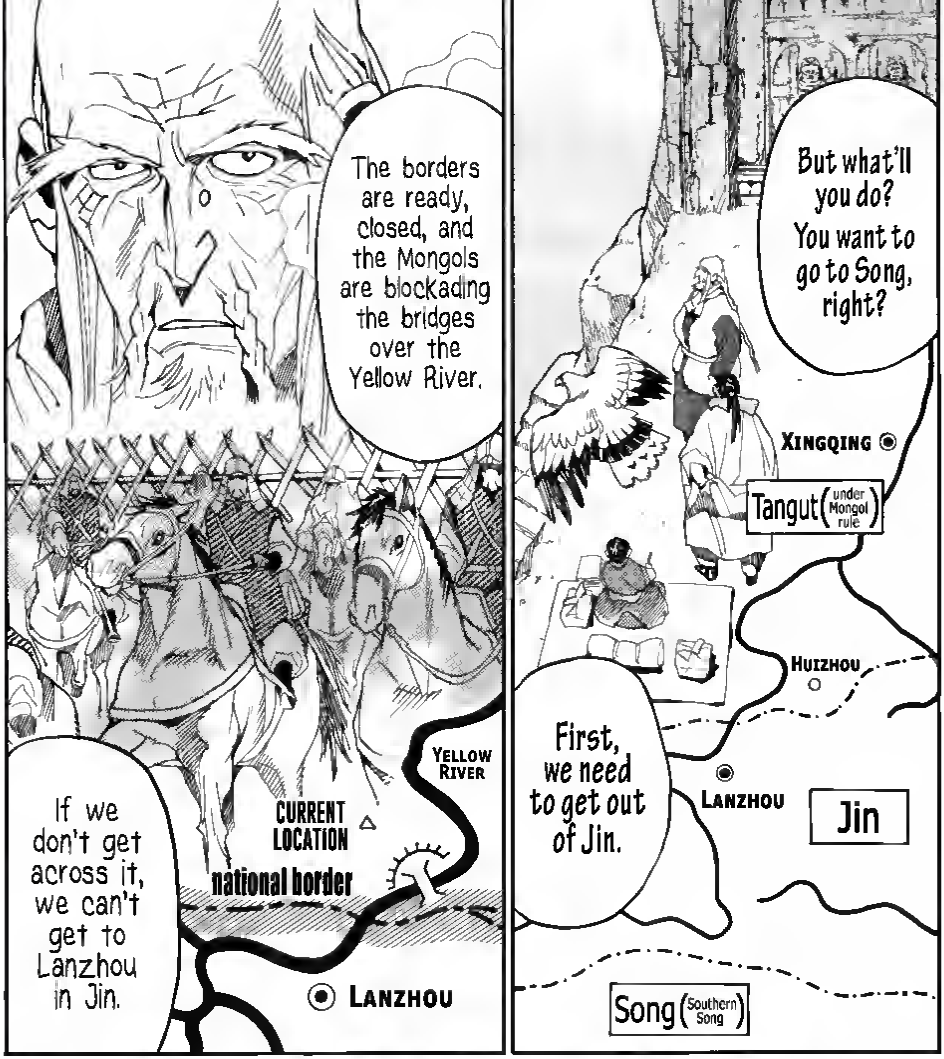
Chapter XXXI Blockade




So you didn't find her today, either?

# Chapter XXXI Blockade

I may be able to find her.
killed back there.
So, Sudoh really was—
You've searched every day... Tomorrow will be the same.
Give it up. Spring's gone and it's already winter.
You really don't give up, do you?
THE NEXT DAY WILL COME, EVEN IF WE CAN'T FIND HER TOMORROW.


The borders are ready, closed, and the Mongols are blockading the bridges over the Yellow River.
If we don't get across it, we can't get to Lanzhou in Jin.
YELLOW RIVER
CURRENT LOCATION
national border
LANZHOU
But what'll you do? You want to go to Song, right?
XINGQING
Tangut (under Mongol rule)
HUIZHOU
First, we need to get out of Jin.
LANZHOU
Jin
Song (Southern Song)

What're you writing?
Everything so far.
and wait for Sudoh
I think that we should stay here——

Even you, Ibaha.
That's Mr. Ibaha to you, kid.
About Alfald, Shut Hell, Sudoh, and all the people I've met.
About my mother, about Boldu, and about the Tangut.
——I've already given up.

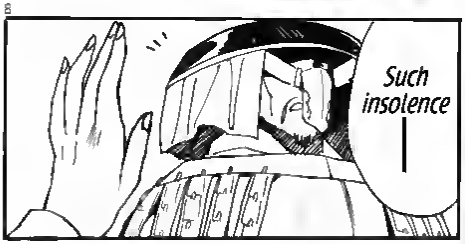
Ibaha
I told you, it's Mr. Iboho to you...
I no longer have a reason to stay with you.
She wos surrounded by thot Mongol force.
Sudoh is dead.

.....
...If...
...You have my gratitude
Thank you for everything
Tell her to try some self-reflection.
Yeah. If that happens—
If you meet her, like you believe you will...
I wonder how long we'll wait before moving on this time...
——I've gotten used to waiting, but...

Just a little longer, Boldu.
Yes, the future won't wait.

Ridiculous That bandit was definitely executed
And the Jin brigands were completely wiped out by our punitive force
Why do you keep sniffing around as if you have some complaint?

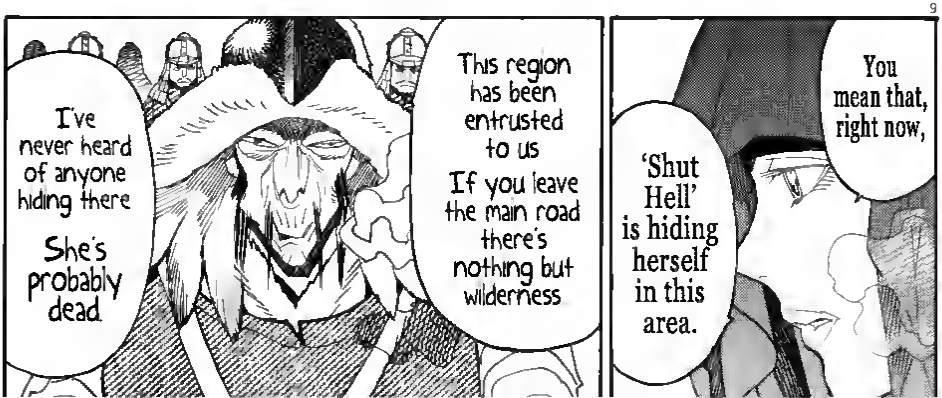
The Tangut bandit "Shut Hell" returned to life——
and was supporting the raids by Jin soldiers here?


Such insolence——

It is true that you wiped out the band of Jin brigands you were sent to suppress.
Regardless of who this person claiming to be 'Shut Hell' is.

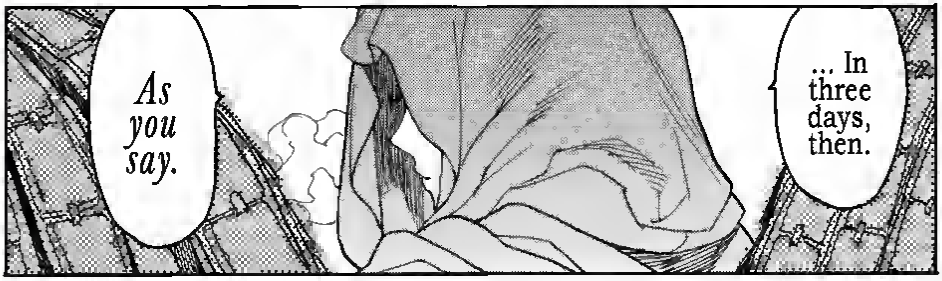

We've spread our nets over the main roads in this region and investigated comings and goings,
but there have hardly been any merchants passing through, let alone suspicious persons or armed women——
to Xing-qing
village
DESERT
main road
main road
Jin soldiers destroyed
to Lanzhou
blockade



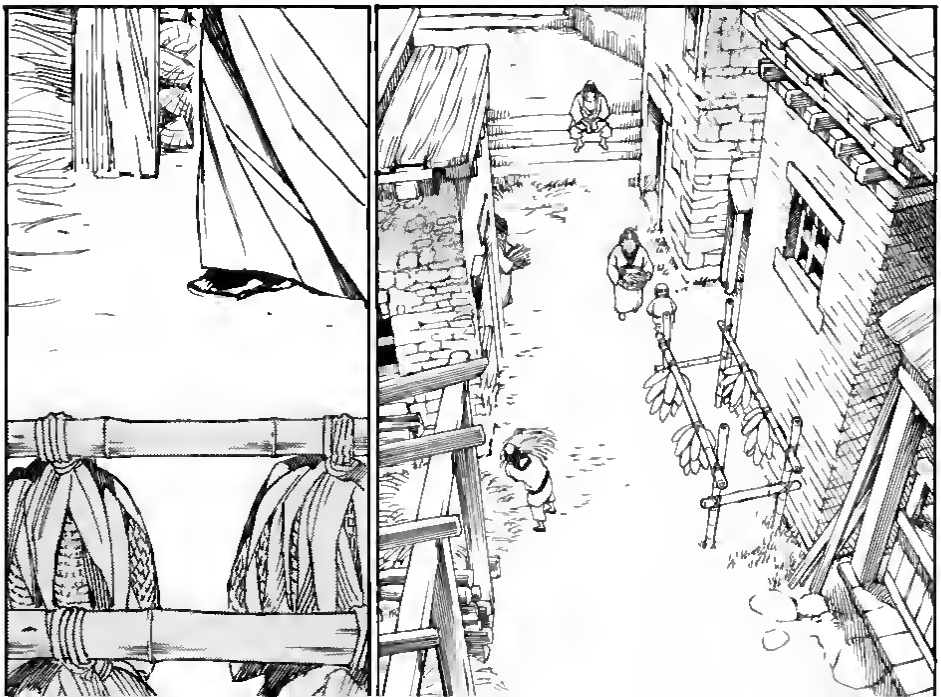

You mean that, right now,
'Shut Hell' is hiding herself in this area.
This region has been entrusted to us
If you leave the main road there's nothing but wilderness
I've never heard of anyone hiding there
She's probably dead

Starting tomorrow, we will set fire to the surrounding villages.
Burn them—...!?
We've already searched the villages!
Then I'll save you the effort of searching them again.
If this 'Shut Hell' is there while we massacre them, all the better.
If we eliminate the people—
the irreverent rumors of 'Shut Hell' will soon vanish as well.

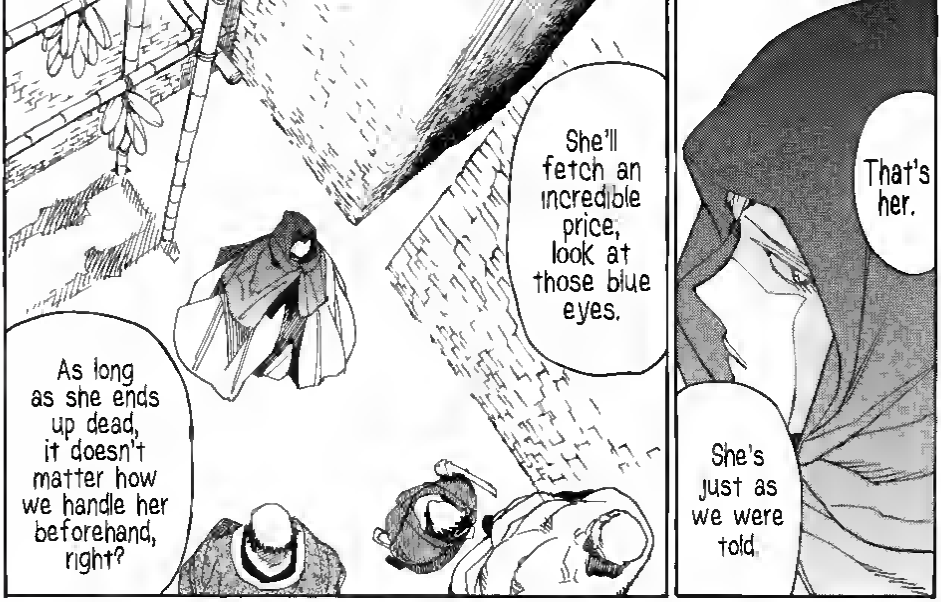
Give me five, no, three days
SHE'S NOT JOKING.
We'll make another thorough search
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SQUEEZE ANYTHING OUT OF THE TANGUT ANYMORE.


... In three days, then.
As you say.





HOUSES OF DRY WOOD AND WITHERED GRASS.
I'M SURE THEY'LL BURN WELL.
She smiled at me!
No, at me


That's her.
She'll fetch an incredible price, look at those blue eyes.
She's just as we were told.
As long as she ends up dead, it doesn't matter how we handle her beforehand, right?

WE KILL HER HERE.
WE GOT AN AOVANCE PAYMENT, REMEMBER?

He hired Tangut? He's cleverer than he looks.
But does he think four angry dogs are enough to finish me off?

This way.
15
14
Gosh.

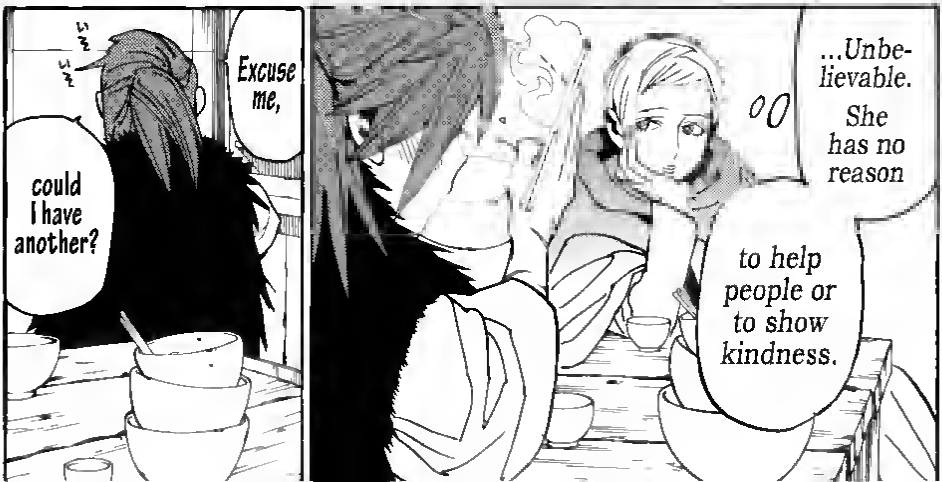
Eep...
I am
Let's GO.
WAIT!
SHIT! GET OUT OF MY WAY...
Over here.
The scent of a beast ...

'If I go wandering around alone...?
'Euro-pean'...?
Wow, blue eyes.
A European? In a place like this?
If you go wondering around alone like that——
——Good thing they weren't very smart.
Who're you with, lady?
Huh?
Oh, you'll get kidnapped and sold ...
You know?
She's bigger than I thought
I mean her face is close
Super close
You must have a fine character.
No way.
...You didn't take their lives.

... You still say such things in these times?
She's clearly not a resident of this place.
I can't just go around killing people in broad daylight.
If I had done it, someone definitely would have seen.

The villain 'Shut Hell'—?
It doesn't matter where or when
I'll say it any time
And I dare say she's a skilled... woman.

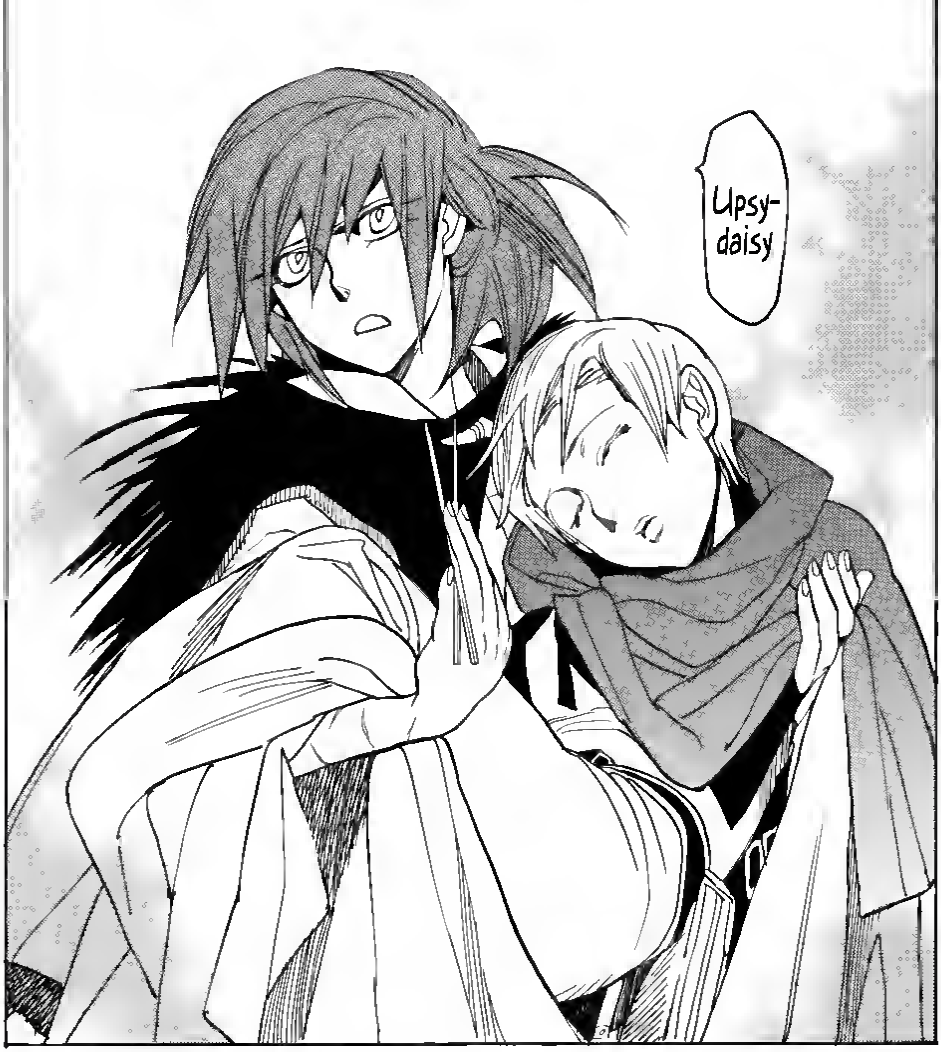



Excuse me,
could I have another?
...Unbelievable.
She has no reason
to help people or to show kindness.

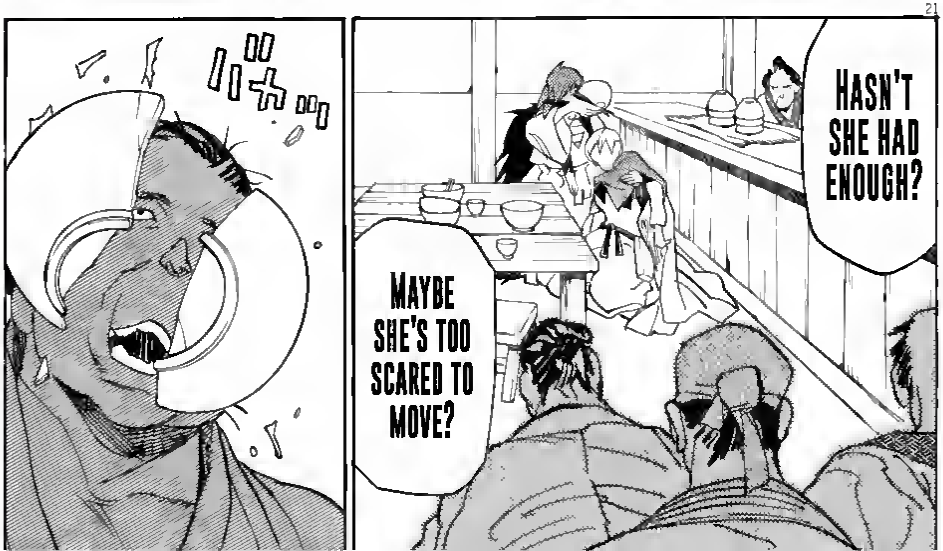
A
mysterious
girl...

Everyone around here has to do as that Mongol army says.
We'll hand over this woman.
H-hey now ...
We've got no choice.
Damn it...

SIURP


Upsy-daisy




HASN'T SHE HAD ENOUGH?
MAYBE SHE'S TOO SCARED TO MOVE?

WHY YOU ...
SMACK

SIGH
AH...
hgh
OOF!

Don't force yourselves
Kuh
Oh...

25

Shit! You bitch!

24

GET OUT OF HERE. HURRY.

61

60

UNUU-UOOH!
clang
26
AWAA-AHH!

Old lady.
then I guess you PROBABLY don't
... If you say you've 'got no choice' ...

But I really messed up the shop, huh...
I had no choice either.

Bu-
guh!
GOT
Y...

She
sure is
trouble
...

Does it still hurt?
Chapter XXXII Moonlight

I was struck from behind ...
—No ...
Where am I...?

# Chapter XXXII Moonlight

hee hee
I was about to say 'I have no place to go home to.'
Maybe because this situation seems so unreal ...
What? Is something wrong?
Could I be unprepared for this girl...?
Huh?
It's because you're so mysterious.
—The mist in my head won't clear.
I may have been lightly drugged in the restaurant.
... You ...

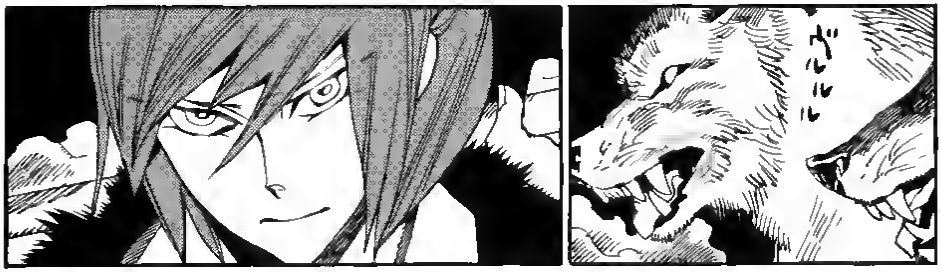
—You've come from a long way off too, haven't you...?

... What ...?

snore

Aren't you plenty mysterious yourself?

ん？


ゴルルル

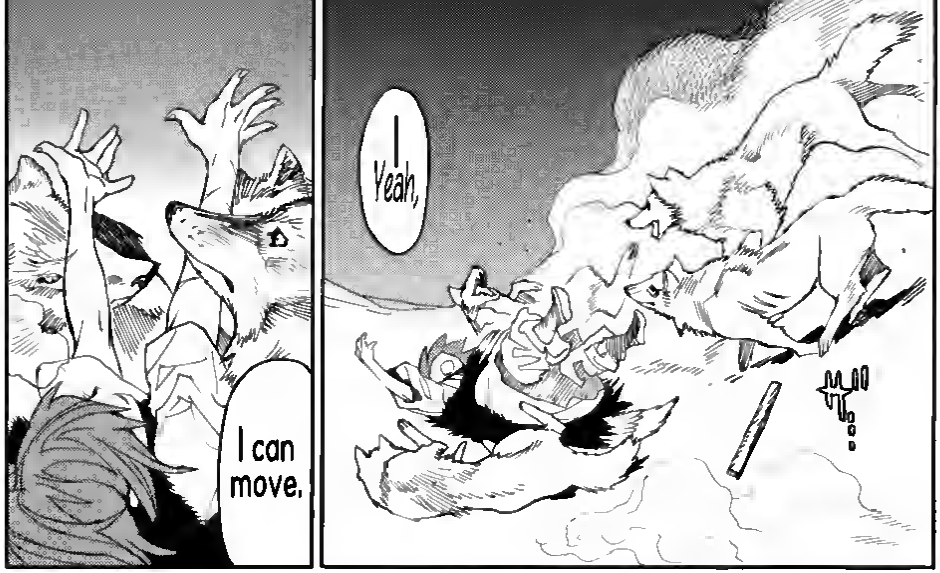
Bow!


WOOF-
WOOF-

ดูแน่
tap
Grrr.
ไม่ใช่

Slu-rp

Ha ha
WOOF
WOOF
Buha!
Wa-ha
Slurp
lick
Uha ha.


I can move.
Yeah,
I'll set out tomorrow.

...Yurui.

I'M BRINGING SHUT HELL ALONG TOO, SO
WAIT FOR ME.

Shut Hell
"You can't really have forgotten."
'Not about him....'

—You have to at least remember Yurul.
...Yurul...
Who's that...?

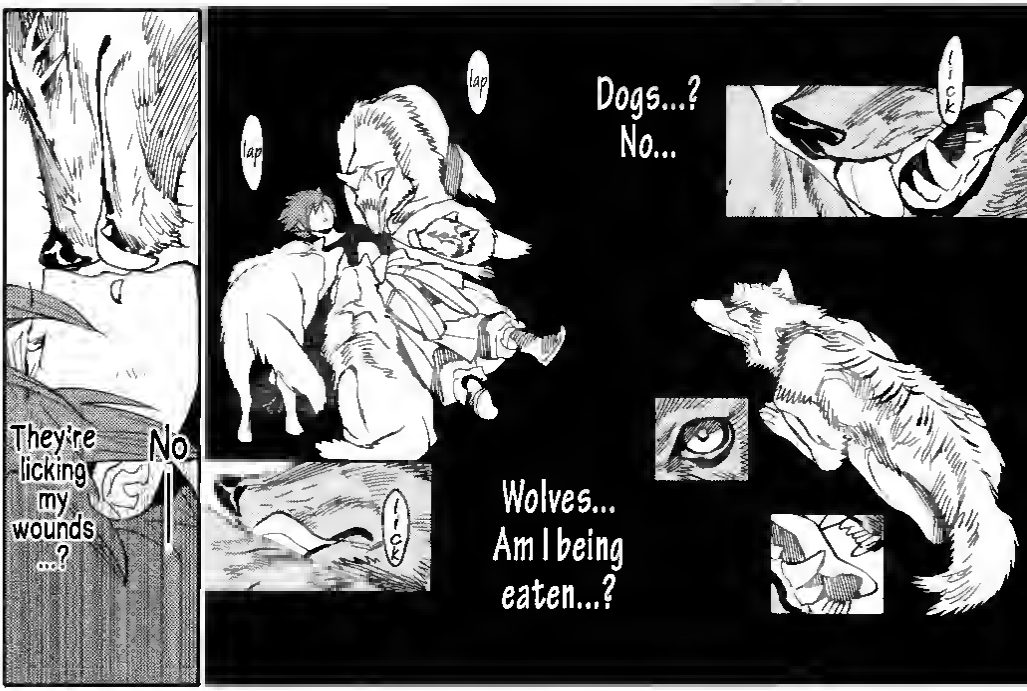
'You said it.'
'You said Yuna is precious to you.'
Shut up.
Please, you have to remember.'
'Ahh, damn it...'

'If the one who wakes up after this'
'is you instead of me,'
'then please, remember him.'
Shut Hell o o ɑ ɑ
Ich
Ou!

SHUT UP!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU!?

...I see—
So, it's me... again.
—She killed this many?
Without any regard for her own injuries?
Fighting with you really tires me out
Shut
Hell.
blood.
I'm losing too much. Whatever the circum-stances ...

lap

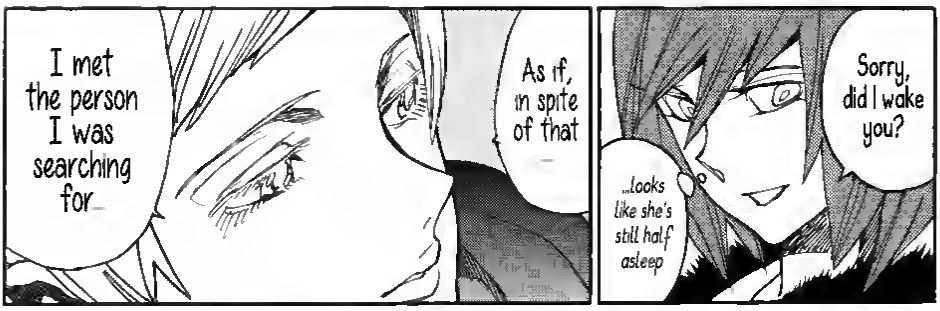

They're licking my wounds...?
No
lap
lap
Dogs...? No...
lick
lick
Wolves... Am I being eaten...?

Uh...
SIJP
SIJP

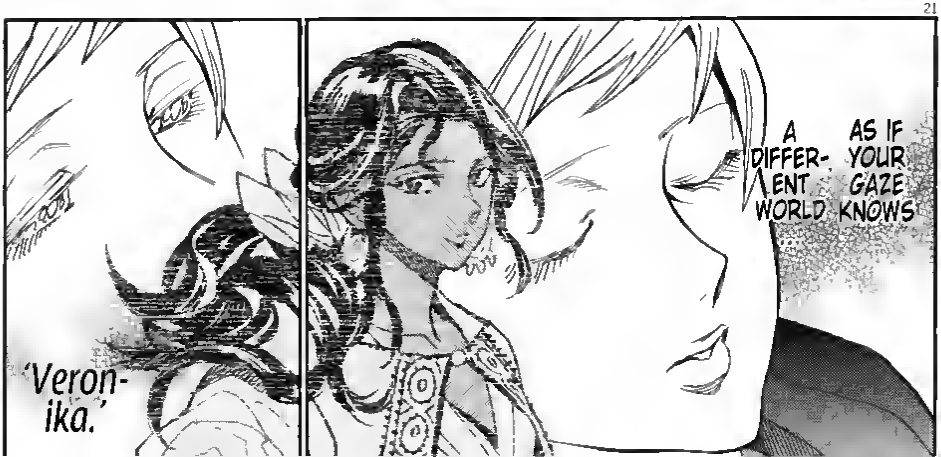
SLURP
SLURP
UGH
Like it's feeding a child—
Chewed up... meat.
KOCK
It stinks
HOOO

GROO-OOWLLL
heh heh ...
SLURP
SWALLOW
SLURP
SWALLOW
SWALLOW
CREW
SWALLOW

—Far way ...
Almost like someone born under a different sky...


Sorry, did I wake you?
...Looks like she's still half asleep
As if, in spite of that
I met the person I was searching for...




AS IF YOUR GAZE KNOWS A DIFFER-ENT WORLD
'Veron-ika.'

Veronika
I am Veronika.
A long time ago... I knew someone like you.
Someone handsome like me?
Were they someone you liked, Veroniko?

Hee hee
I wonder if the Mongols
will burn away my home town for me...
As I thought... I wonder what her reason is?
... I don't really understand, but

So your wish will probably come true, Veronika.
...You speak as if you've already seen it.
THEY'LL BECOME LIKE AN AVALANCHE.
NOT JUST IN THIS AREA, BUT NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, AND WEST.
THE MONGOLS WILL BECOME EVEN MORE POWERFUL THAN THEY ARE NOW.

I have companions too.
WHAT WISH DO YOU LIVE FOR?
declared that the Tangut Empire will be destroyed.
A Tangut Girl ...
IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN— WITH YOUR COUNTRY DESTROYED,

I'll just go along with them.
Whatever the country I'm in is called, what I do won't change.
But we got split up.
I was hurt.
And he was hurt—
—He was hurt for my sake.
It sounds as if you believe in each other.
I'm jealous ...
THERE WAS SOMEONE PRECIOUS TO HIM.
BUT HE THINKS THAT SHE DIED.

I HAVE TO BRING HER
—I know where she is.
She's only forgot-ten...
TO WHERE HE IS.
It's the first time I've felt this way.
Yeah, although that might be a strange way of putting it.
Your compan-ion.
...He must have been someone you liked.

HE'S INCREDIBLY PRECIOUS
TO ME, TOO.
Take this horse
It's one I swiped from that village anyway
I'll go back to that village; I have preparations to make.
Will you be okay going part of the way on your own?
...
It would be best... if you don't remain in that village long either.
?
I'm in a hurry, so I should be done there today. Will that be soon enough?
WE'LL SET FIRE TO IT IN THREE DAYS.

They regret your parting
...
Aren't you going to look back?
オオーン
So they'll wait for me
for a long time.
I'm in a hurry. I was there for a long time
I was in that den for a long time...

—Any changes?
Lady Veronika!
You're safe...! Where have you been?
What is it?
PREPARATIONS FOR BATTLE...?
The fires were set before the appointed day.
The village we were supposed to be staying in——

Chapter XXXIII Restraint

Now that it's gotten out that we're the ones who had her attacked, there's no going back.
–Haven't you found the blue-eyed woman yet!?

WE'LL PUT HER TO DEATH WITH THE FIRE SHE ORDERED.
SMOKE THEM OUT AND KILL THEM!

Would an animal head towards a fire?
You must be seeing things.
A wolf...? An animal's running this way.
What is it?
I guess you're right.
As we suspected, it appears the fire is the work of the occupying troups.

# [Chapter XXXIII] Restraint

'Be well.'

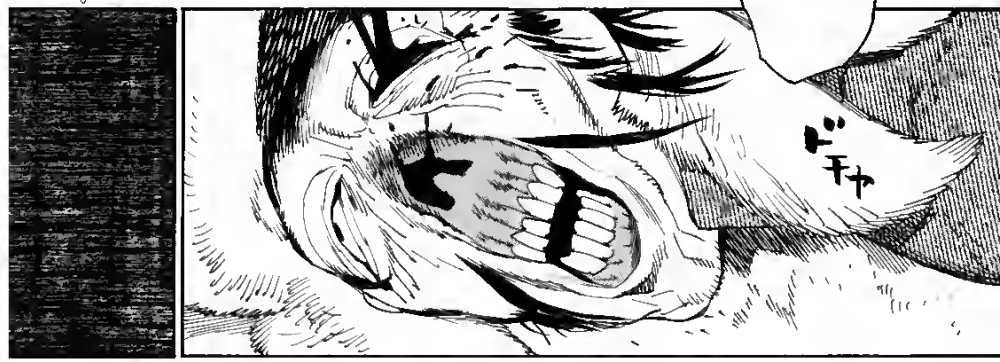
'Be careful on your way home, Veronika.'

4

...It's strangely quiet...
WHAT'S THIS...!?
—Why is even the occupying force dead...?

7

6



So, you still want to be eaten, Mongols?
–Don't let her touch Lady Veronika.
Why has she appeared here, now–!?
–You mean the rumors that she returned to life are true?
'SHUT HELL' ...!?
Come.

I NEVER TIRE OF THE TASTE OF YOUR BLOOD.

ヒュ
ヒュ
ドドドドス
!?

Kuh...
ATTACK

THUD
WHIZZ
WHIZZ

Aha?
WA AA AH HH!
U-WAH ...
OO,
Ah ha ha ha ha.

She's laughing ...
--So, that's 'the villain who delights in killing'?
Heh heh,
Ah ha ha ha...

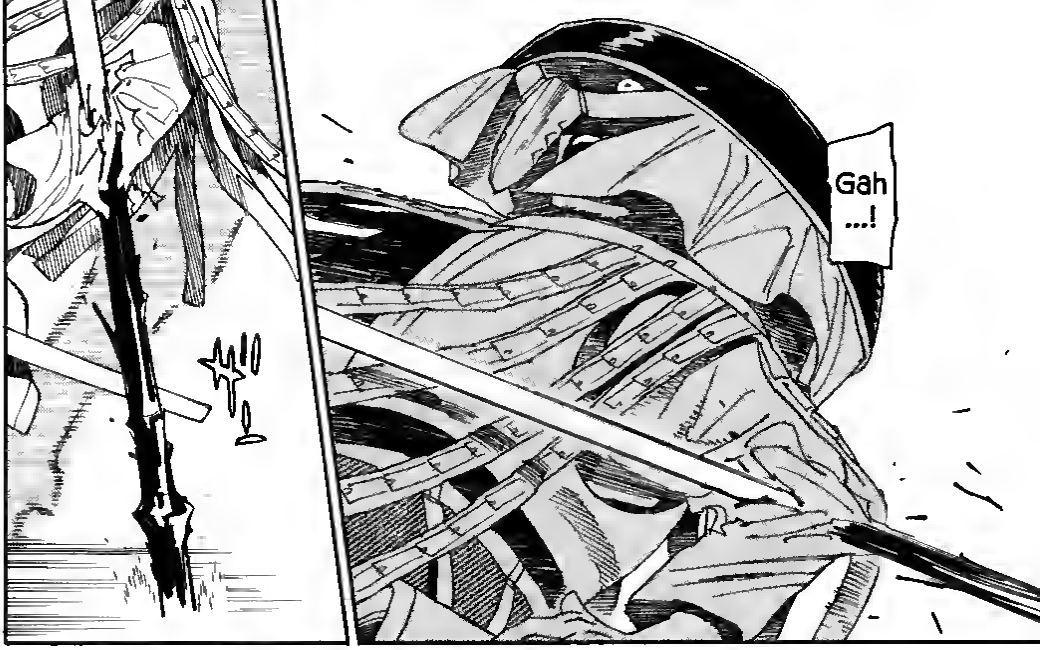
'Shut Hell'...
That's...

Take Lady Veronika to a safe place.
...Fall back slowly.

ドバッ
ドバッ
15
LADY VERO-NIKA...!
ドゴッ

WHINNEY
THWACK
Please fall back.
Halt!

ドドド


Gah ...!

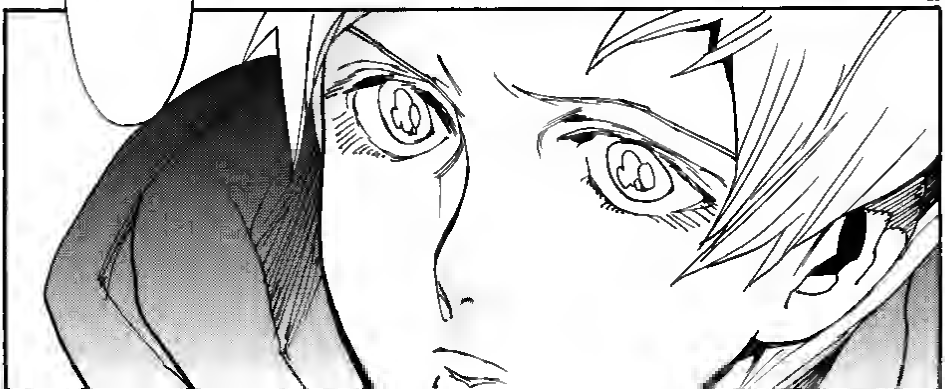
–So, it ends here.
What a pity.
Continue to live while being cursed.
Live like a beast–

'Not killing or destroying,
a different way of life'...

She stopped her hand...?
Who's that...?
...
'Yurui.'
—AREN'T YOU GOING TO KILL ME.
SHUT HELL?

Veronika—
...sorry.





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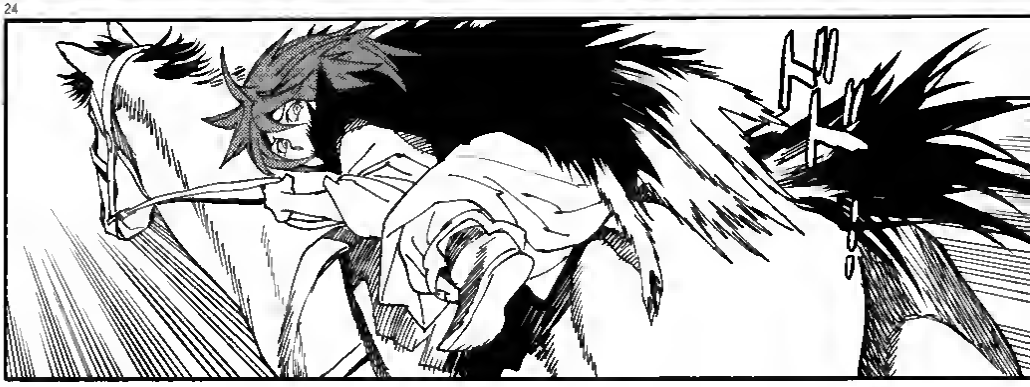
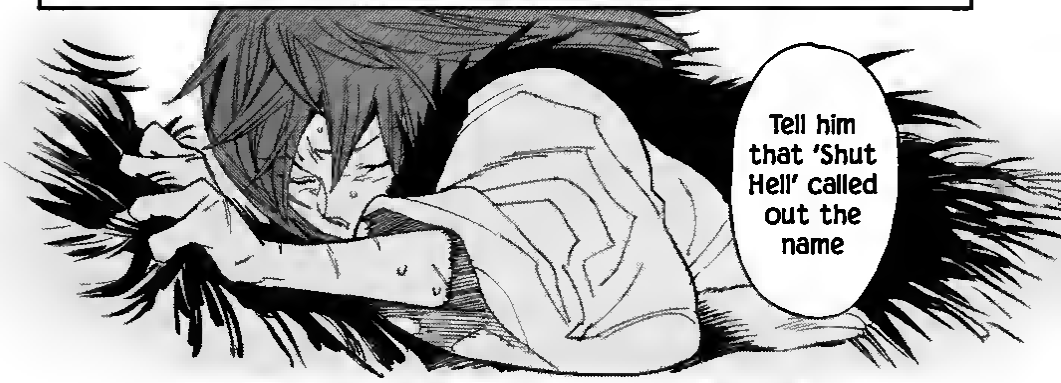

ドド

Stand up.
Lady... Veronika...
My... apologies...

INFORM HARABAL.


Tell him that 'Shut Hell' called out the name

OF THE TSOG'S FALSE 'IMPERIAL PRINCE'—
THAT THE VOICE OF JADE IS CLOSE BY.

ONCE WE CROSS, WE'LL BE IN JIN.
TUG
–The other bank is in darkness...

KICK
Let's go.

SHUT HELL
By Itoh Yu
Translation: Riron
Cleaning: Wakabayashi
Typesetting: Nethandle
happyscans.blogspot.com

SHUT HELL
By Itoh Yu
Translation: OtherSideofSky
Cleaning: Riron
Wakabayashy
Typesetting: Nethandle
happyscans.blogspot.com

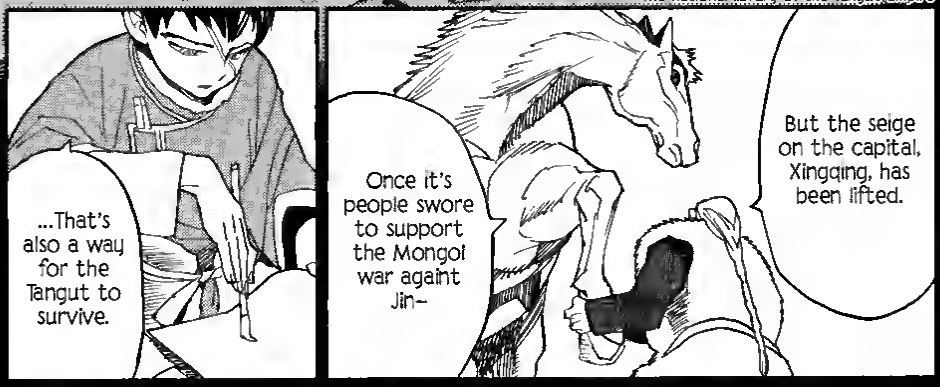
[Chapter XXXIV] River Crossing

And he wrapped the horses' hooves so that they won't slip on the ice–
...I see; he was waiting for the river to freeze.
–It seems the Mongol army has withdrawn most of their troops from Great Xia.*
They appear to have left governors and a small number of troops in various places, but...
–I suppose the Tsog must have returned home as well.

*A name for the Tangut Empire (Western Xia) used by its inhabitants.

Every document bearing the writing of Great Xia has been burned up.
Temples, government buildings, and the Grand Academy*;
Yes, probably.

*The national library of the Tanguts Empire

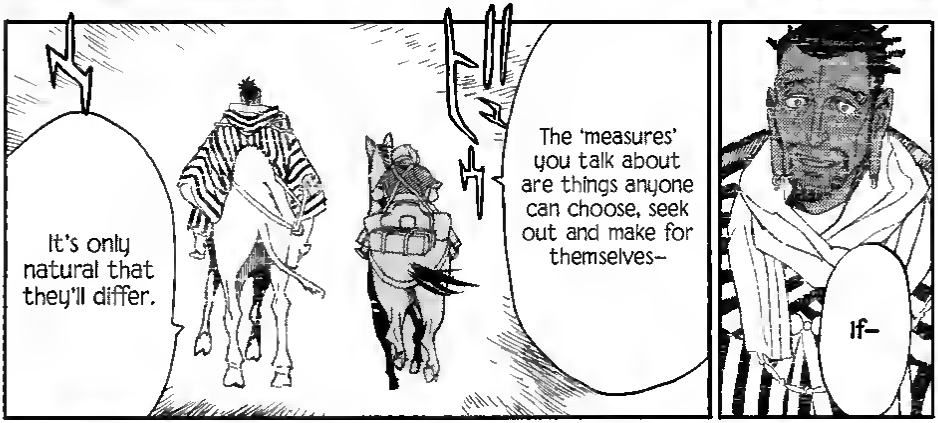

...That's also a way for the Tangut to survive.
Once it's people swore to support the Mongol war againt Jin–
But the seige on the capital, Xingqing, has been lifted.

the Tangut script is not yet dead.
Boldu, as long as the Voice of Jade exists–
If the Mongols are pulling troops out of Western Xia and invading Jin–
Mongols
Great Xingan Mtn. Range
Jin
They'll probably cross over the mountain range to the East and head for the Jin capital.
Tangut Empire (Western Xia)
Xingqing
Zhongdu
Lanzhou
Chengdu
Southern Song
Lin'an
will place many troops on the southwestern border–
In other words, neither the Mongols or the Jin
I won't let it be killed.
And I thought he was still a child.

In just a short time–
it seems the back riding ahead of me has grown broader.
With the wind blowing up ice–
it feels like even my consciousness will be blown away.
–I heard a sound like this in Yanzhou.
That time, it was a sandstorm–
Now that I think back on it, his cloak protected me from the pelting sand.
'I thought it was pointless.'
5

Living or dying by the clash of 'measures.'
Alfald,
you never had anything to fall back on... did you?
as a measure that invites conflict.
If you hate the act of believing in something itself
The Tangut script? So, you've encountered a measure other than 'strength'–
and you cling to it.

It's not as if that's the only thing supporting me now.

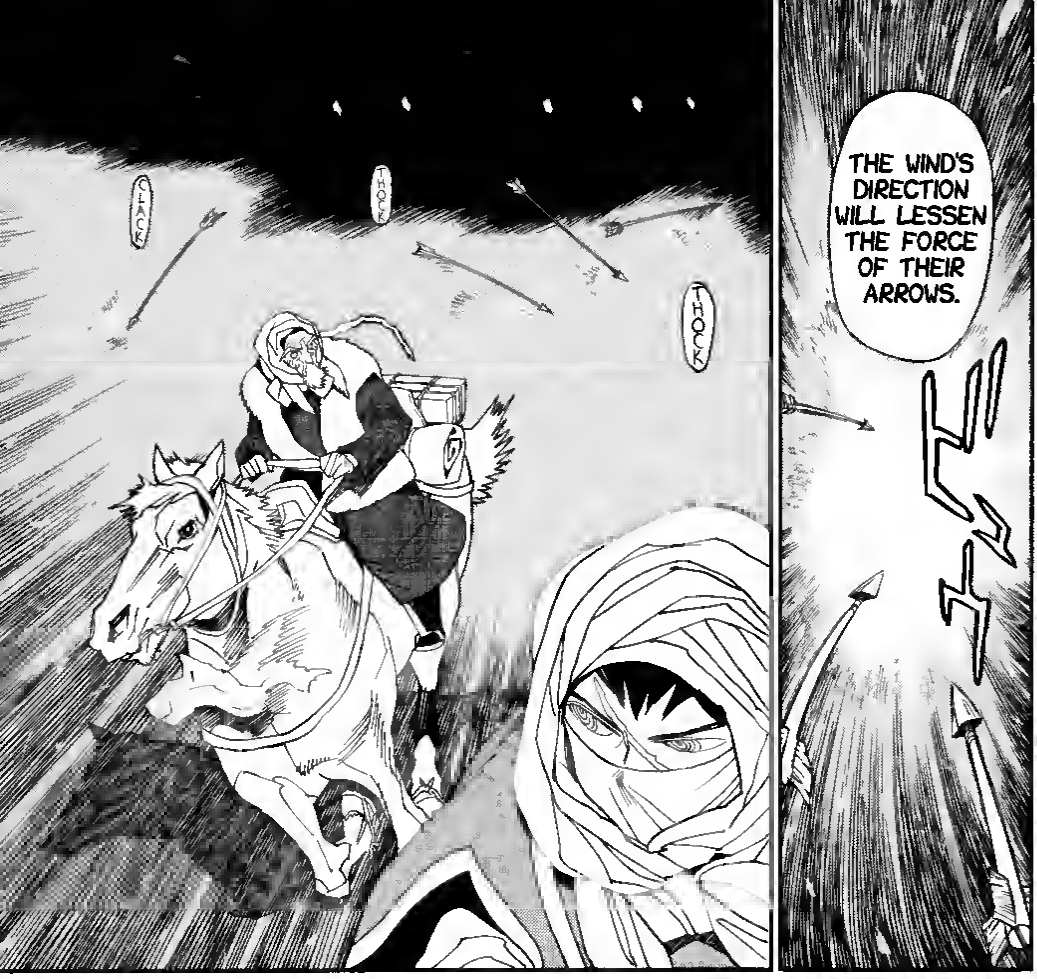

It's only natural that they'll differ.
The 'measures' you talk about are things anyone can choose, seek out and make for themselves–
If–

You're more fiendish than Shut Hell.
As fearsome as ever, I see.
Doesn't that make fighting over the correctness of measures and comparing them meaningless...?

Little prince, what you're talking about is the dissolution of society.
A great many people have to follow the same standard, or they could never establish nations.
It's convenient to have the same stick as everyone else,
and if everyone has the same stick, they start wanting to break a different one.
If you don't want to do that, then all you can do is break away.
Just like you and me.
Ha ha...
...I think I'd like to have something to do with people.

Will I be able to talk with you more from now on?
Alfald?
No, little prince.
You already know that.
I guess we've already said our goodbyes.
LORD YURUL!

PUR-
SUERS!
However much other baggage we get rid of, there's still the weight of the Voice of Jade.
Riding head-on into the blizzard like this...
We can't even hope for the eagle's help, can we?
It will make the horses tire more quickly.
Yaraltu would become a target; there's no place to hide over the river.
But this wind will have the same effect on our pursuers—
ヒュー!
ビシ


THE WIND'S DIRECTION WILL LESSEN THE FORCE OF THEIR ARROWS.
ヒュー
THOCK
THOCK
CLACK

ヒュー!
The anti-skid wrap-ping—
ビュン
SLIP

Kuh
...
Lord Yurui !?
My arrows will–
If I shoot from here...

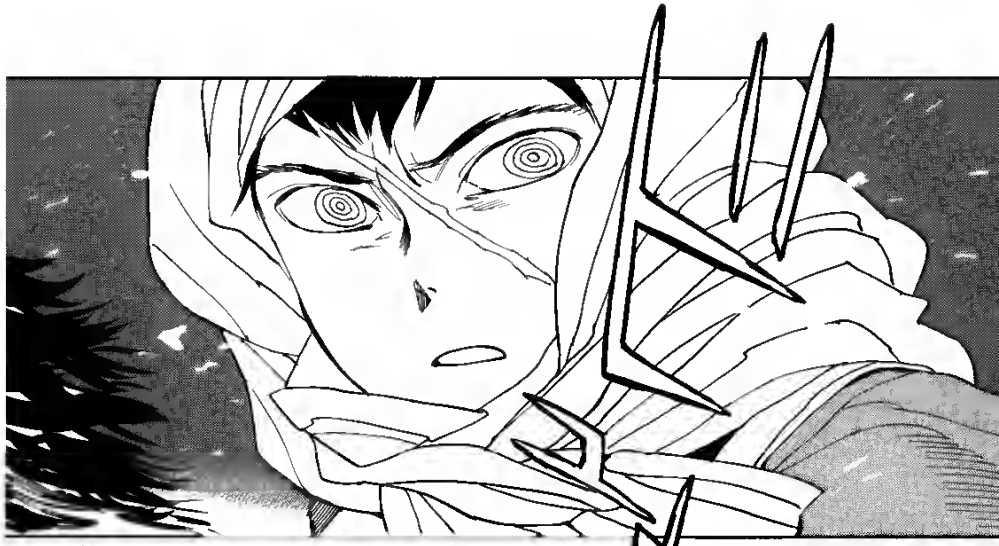
RIDE THE BLIZZARD.

NEEIIGGHH!?
Uuoooohh!

The torch lights are decreasing–
–Al-right.

Keep it up, Boldu! Just a little further!
As I thought, the Lanzhou border is undermanned.
At this rate, we should be able to escape them.
15

17



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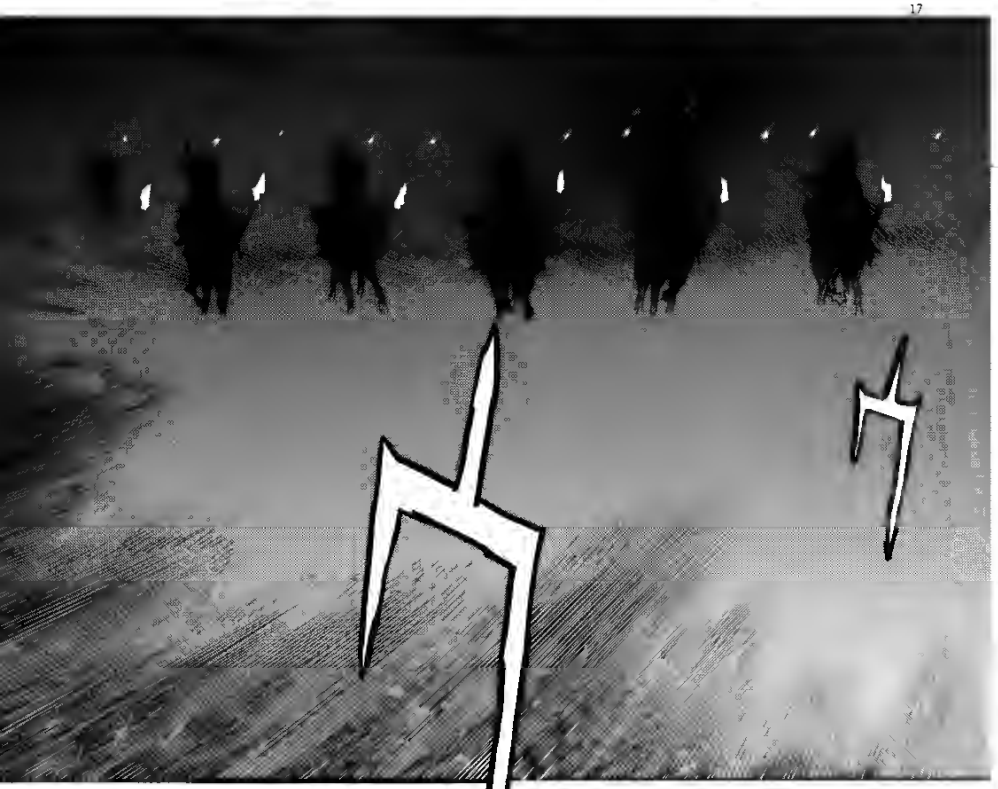
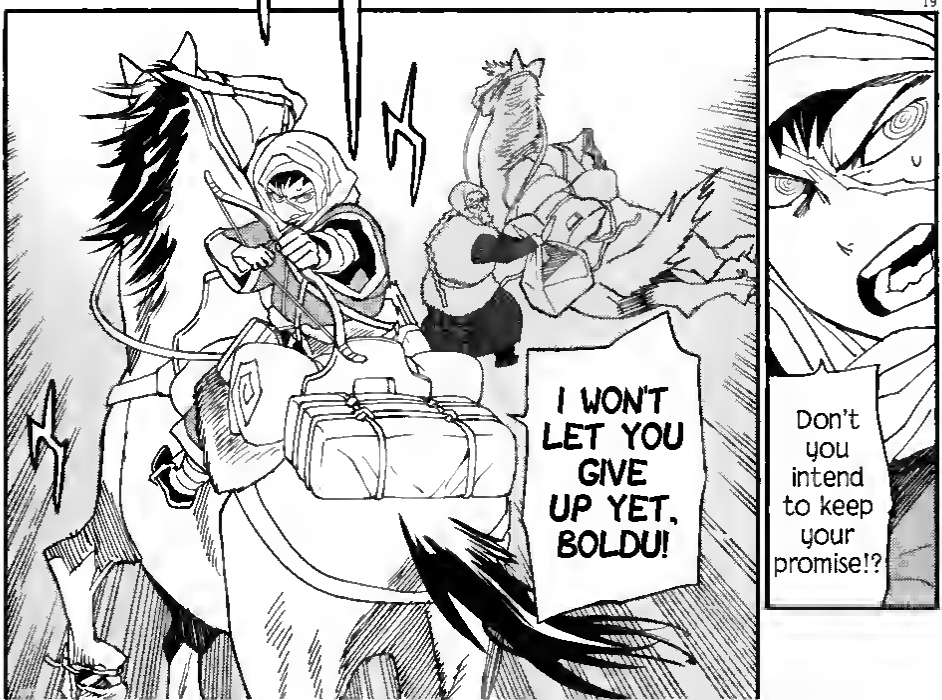


–We've cast our net over the under-manned border.
Jingtai Relay Station, 50km from the Border–
If we can snare the false 'imperial prince'
without waiting for Harabal,
'Incredibly precious.'
'He's precious to me, too.'
–I want to speak with him, slowly...

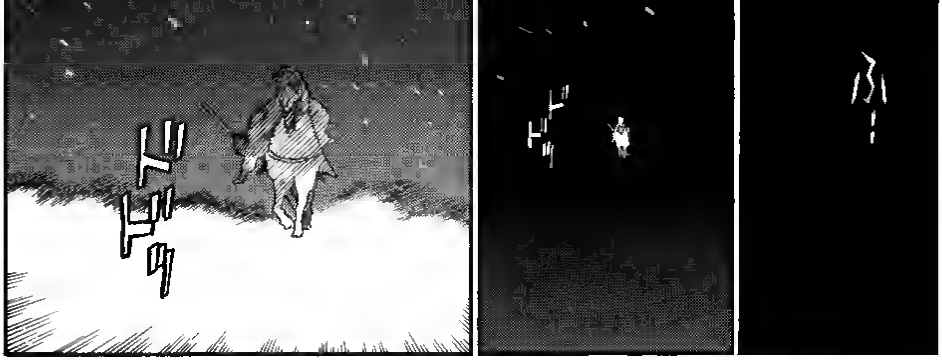
WHINNEY!
—LORD YURUL!

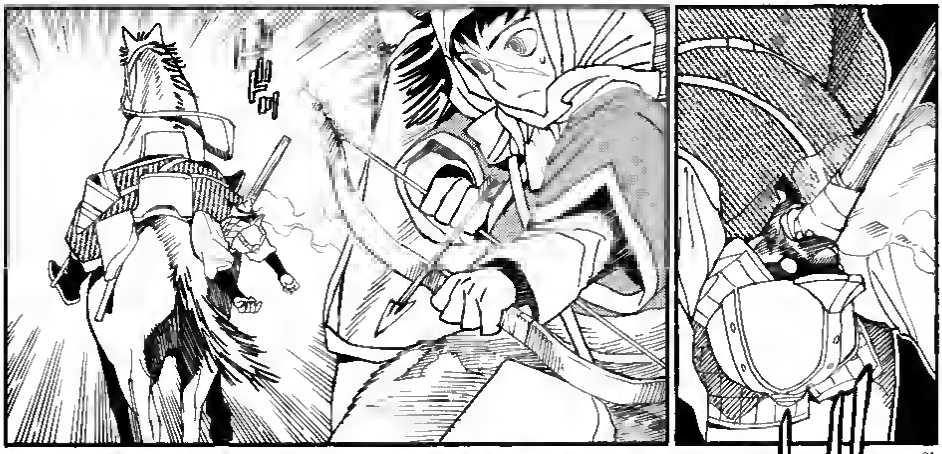
Go on ahead! Take care of the Voice of Jade.
I will follow after you.




I WON'T LET YOU GIVE UP YET, BOLDU!
Don't you intend to keep your promise!?

Lord Yurul! Hurry... Please!
THE LIGHTS ...
ARE DE-CREAS-ING...





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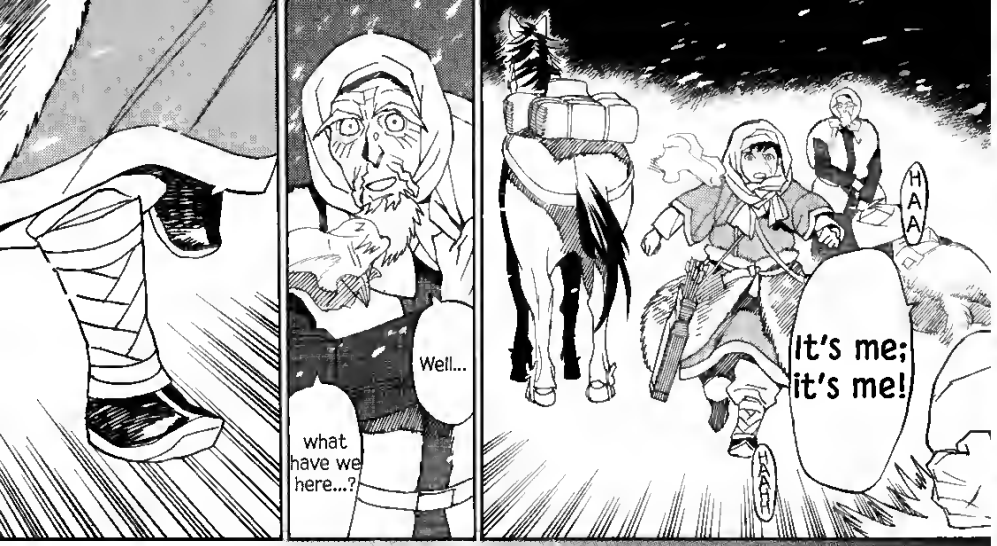

Well...
what have we here...?


HAA
It's me; it's me!
HAAH

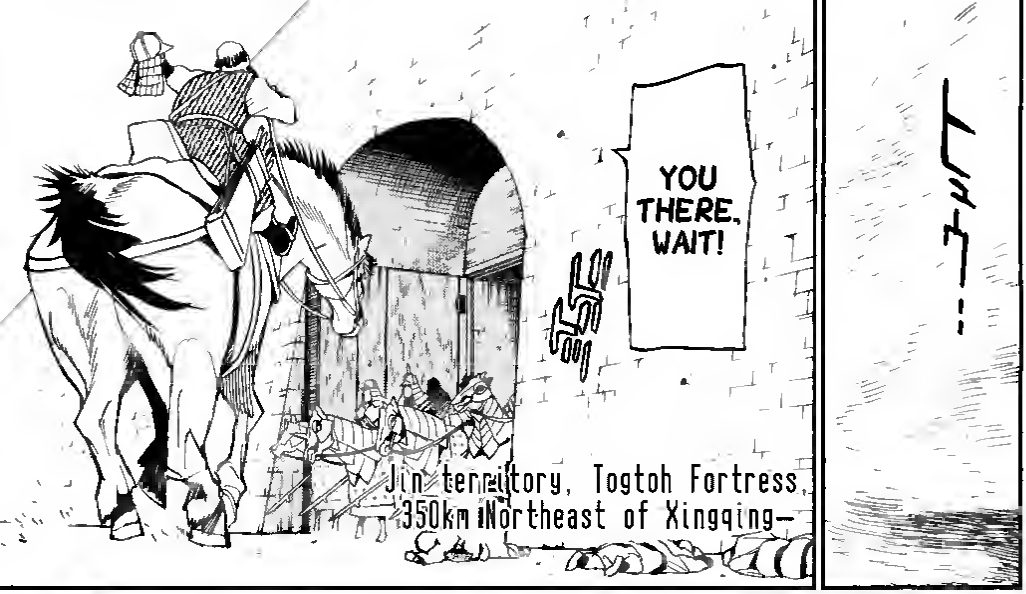
HAA
Hee-eeyy!
HAA

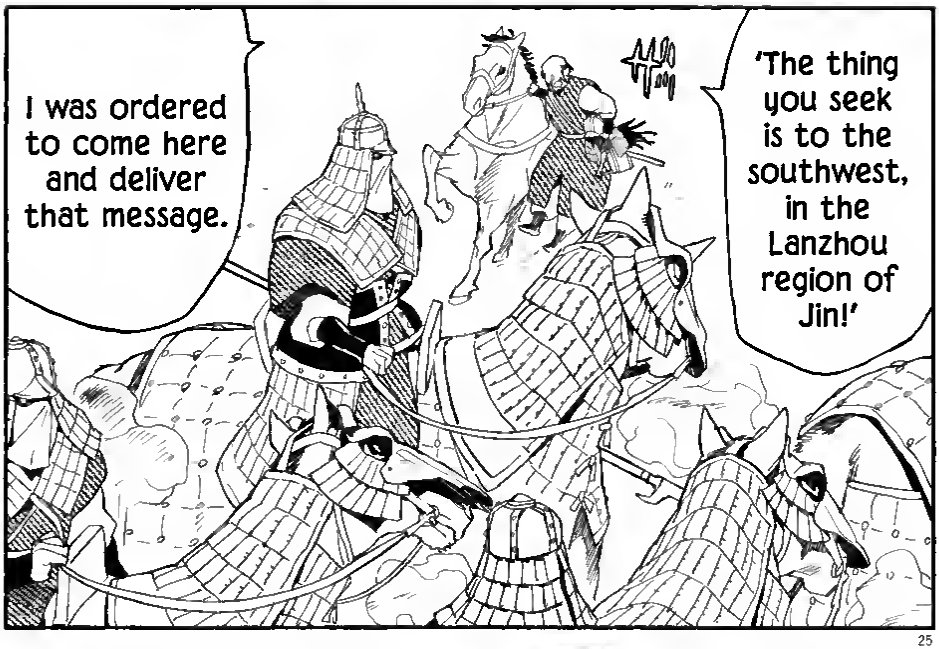
...!

I BET YOU'RE SURPRISED, RIGHT?
HAAAA!

HAAHH

24


ハァ…
YOU THERE, WAIT!
ガシ
Jin territory, Togtoh Fortress, 350km Northeast of Xingqing—

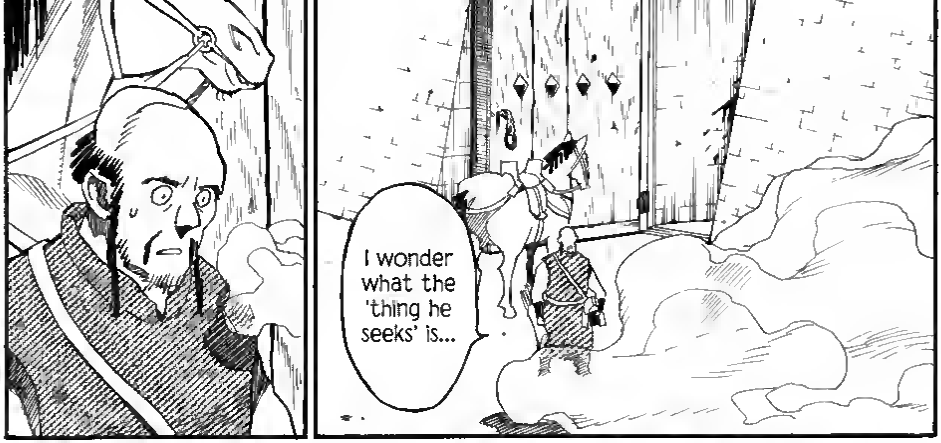

I was ordered to come here and deliver that message.
'The thing you seek is to the southwest, in the Lanzhou region of Jin!'

ゆらり

27

26

147



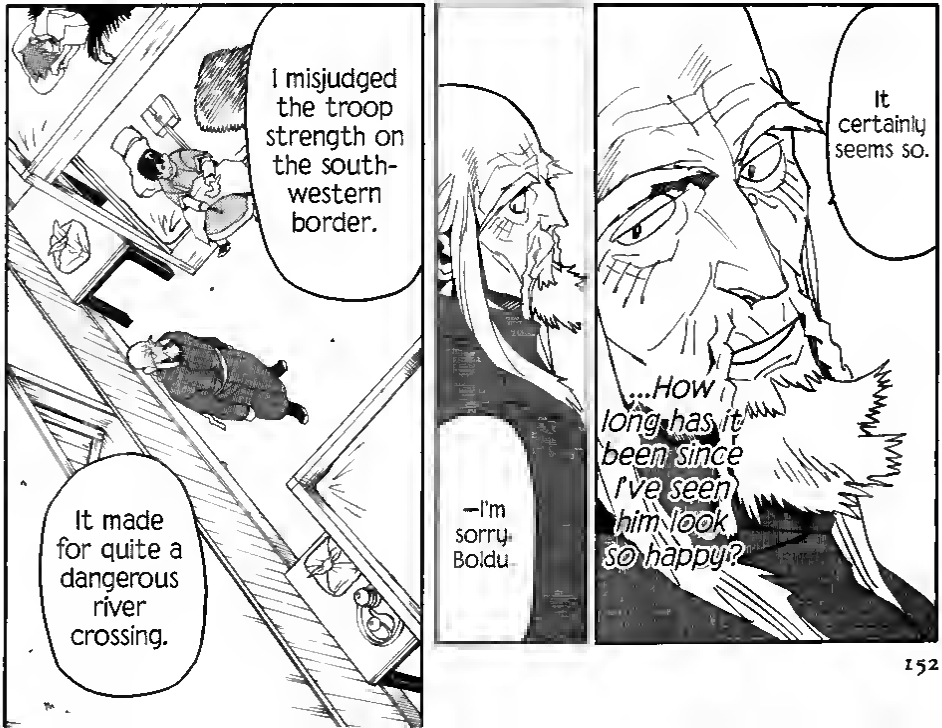

28

# [Chapter XXXVI] The Frontier General

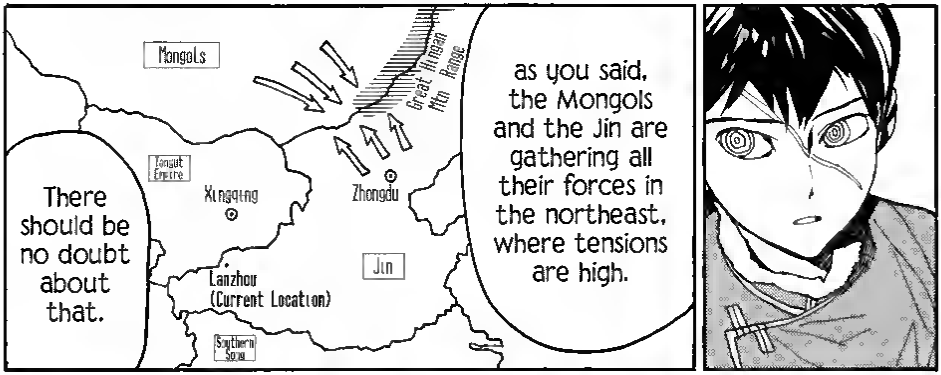
I didn't have time to finish the carving, so I'll leave that to you.
It sounds perfect, though.
Sudoh...
I promised, didn't I?
I guess you didn't believe me, huh?
Yup.

# [Chapter XXXIIII] The Frontier General

So, you remembered... Sudoh.


I misjudged the troop strength on the south-western border.
It made for quite a dangerous river crossing.
—I'm sorry, Boldu.
...How long has it been since I've seen him look so happy?
It certainly seems so.

If it was only an error in judgment, that's all well and good, but...


Mongols
Great Hinggan Mtn Range
Tangut Empire
Xingqing
Zhongdu
Jin
Lanzhou (Current Location)
Southern Song
There should be no doubt about that.
as you said, the Mongols and the Jin are gathering all their forces in the northeast, where tensions are high.

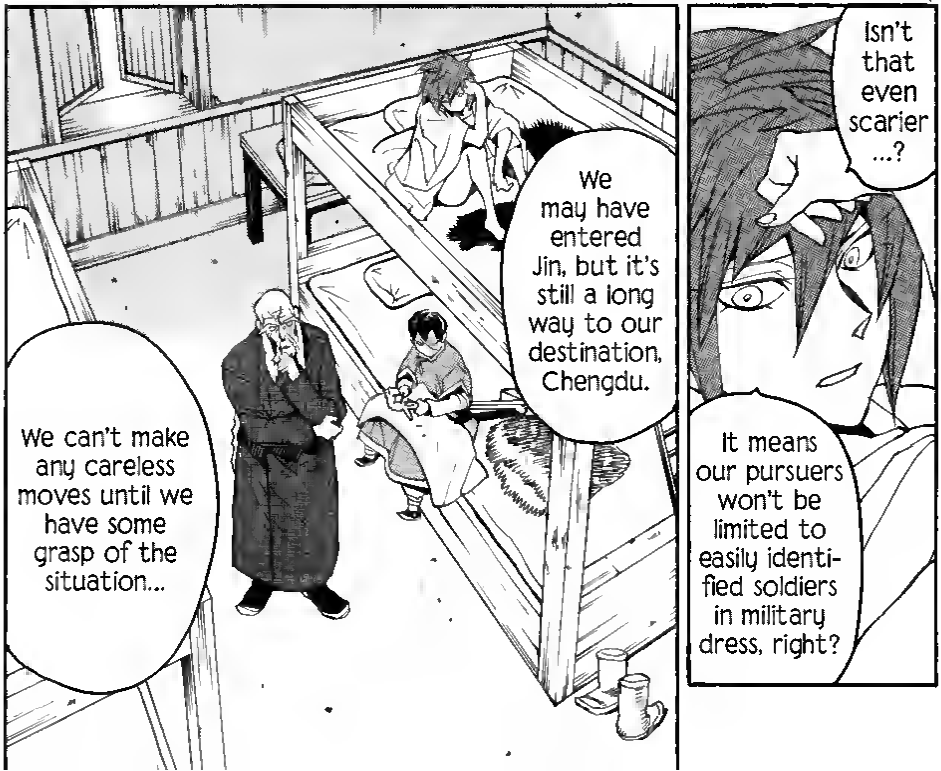
5

Then why?
Sudoh.
Yes, I thought so, but—
Actually, there were few defences or troops on the Jin side,
and it was easy to enter Lanzhou, but...

If Shut Hell weren't here,
we never would have made it across.
There were heaps of Mongol soldiers on that river.
Although, thanks to that, I'm completely tired out...

In other words—
We are being pursued.
—The Mongols learned of the existence of the Voice of Jade...?

If pursuers are on our track, then—
Will they go so far as to send troops over the border after us from now on?
I don't know.
But it makes more sense to assume they have a rough idea of our and the Voice of Jade's whereabouts.
SHRUG
We've left Mongol territory.
I doubt their pursuit will take the form of an army.
As long as there's tension between the Mongols and Jin in the northeast,


We may have entered Jin, but it's still a long way to our destination, Chengdu.
We can't make any careless moves until we have some grasp of the situation...
Isn't that even scarier ...?
It means our pursuers won't be limited to easily identified soldiers in military dress, right?

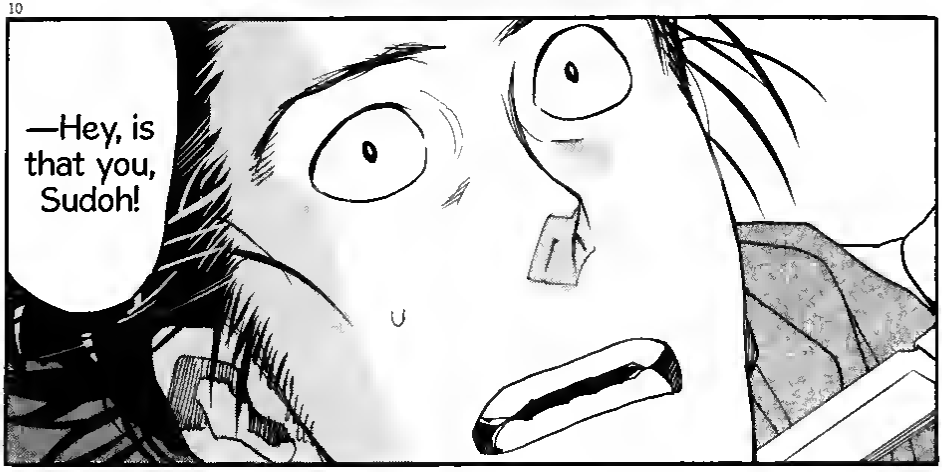
Yurui.
Now it's time for your promise to teach me more characters.

8

CREAK
—For Shut Hell's sake.
The first thing I have to learn is how to write your name.

Guoh!
SLAM
!?

10

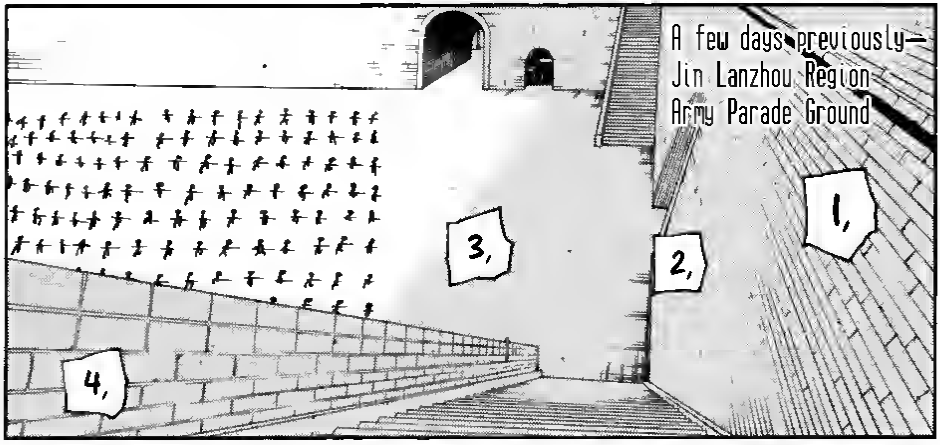


Sudoh, you rascal...
Honest-ly—
Danger-ous as always...
You haven't reflected on what happened one bit.
Uo-oh.
I'm not letting you go 'til you feel sorry.
So-
sorry, I'll get off you right away.

You're damn good at staying alive...

I've been looking for you.
Well, I did expect to find you in a cheap inn like this, though.

Oh,
I'm glad to see you guys looking well, too.


A few days previously—
Jin Lanzhou Region
Army Parade Ground
1,
2,
3,
4,

12

1,
2,

Hey...

Halt!
You there!

They're new recruits, Lord Jilgus.
I just got a little too caught up in drilling and grazed him a little.
He's making a damn fuss about it.
I believe the unit they were attached to got lost in Western Xia territory, came under attack from the Mongols, and was destroyed.
Alunge, you...
He seriously tried to kill me...

14

Be careful, both of you.
Even the defenders of this remote region must be firm.
Hmph...

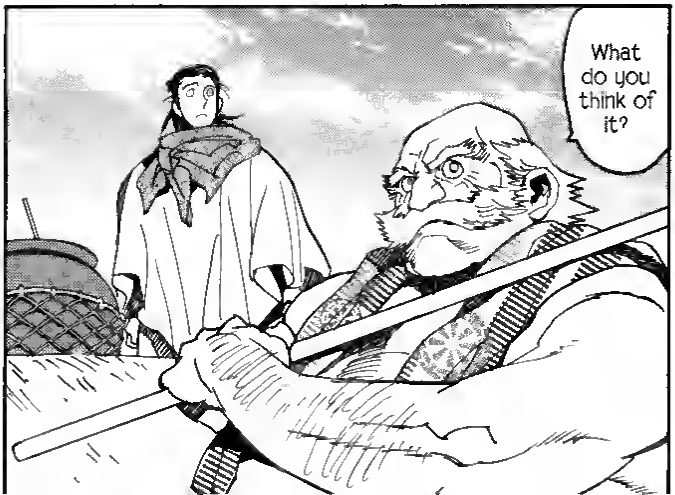
Have pride as soldiers of Jin.

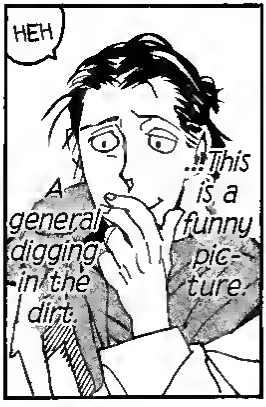
I failed.
Well, I'll get as many chances as I need from now on.
That's all for today.
I have to kill you, at least.
Trai-tor.

I didn't need any; it was just a graze.
—Sorry for calling you out here. Is the medicine working?

It's nice and quiet out here in the fields, isn't it?

16

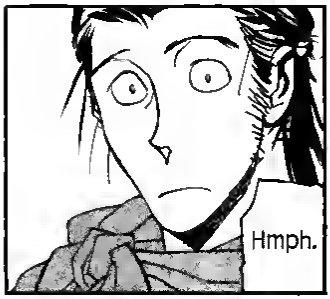

What do you think of it?

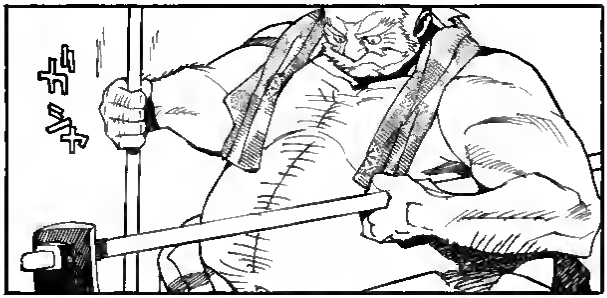

HEH
...This is a funny picture.
A general digging in the dirt.

Our Jin is no longer a land of only taking.

We will raise crops.

17


Hmph.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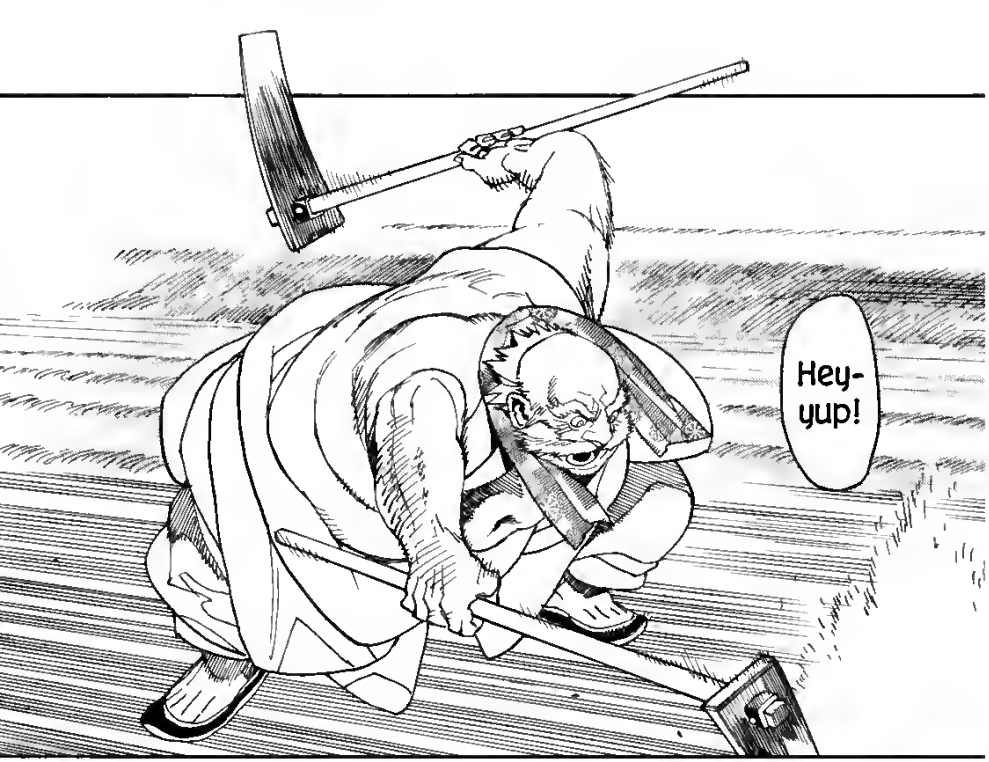
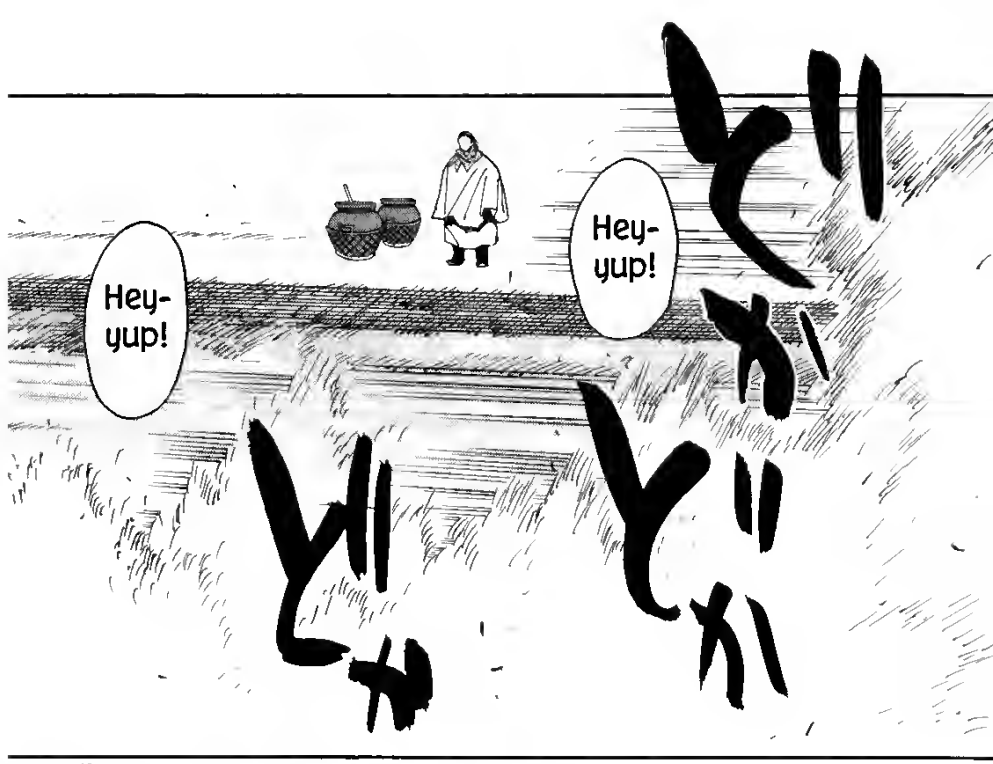
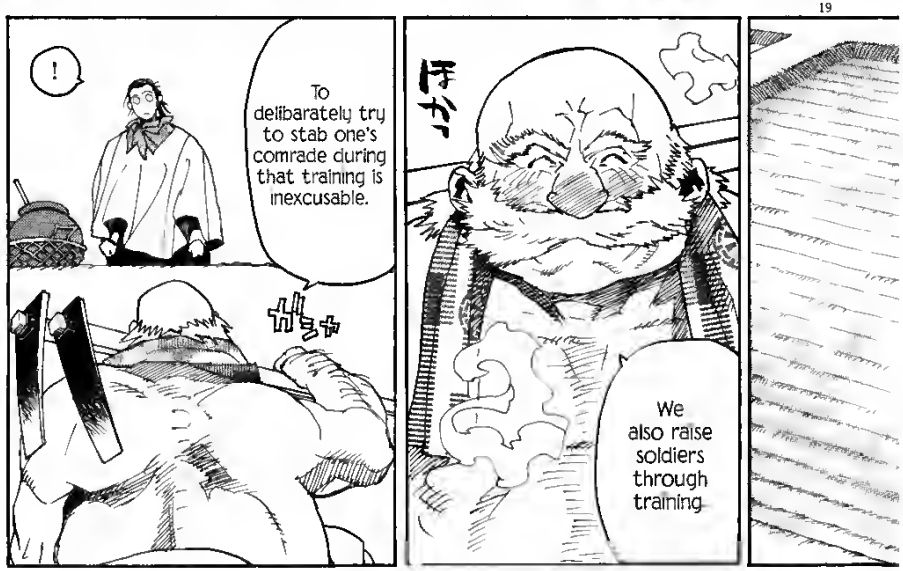
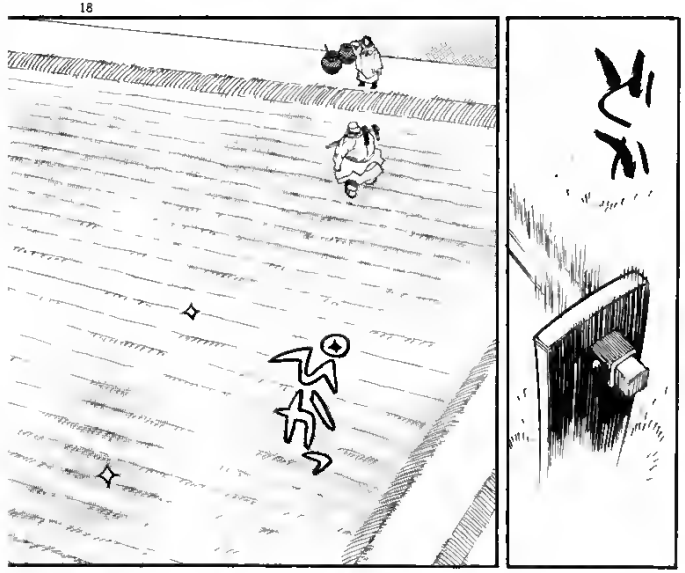
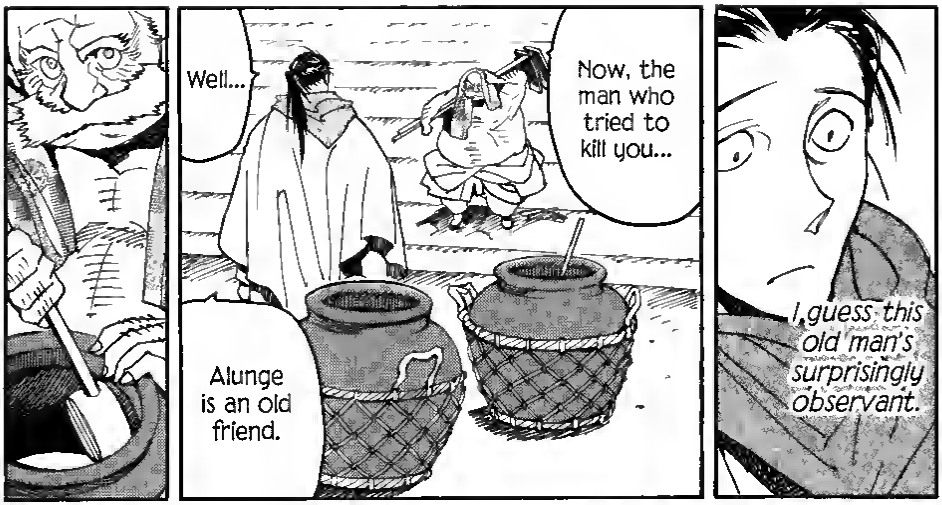

Hey-yup!


Hey-yup!
Hey-yup!


!
To deliberately try to stab one's comrade during that training is inexcusable.
ガシャ
ぼが
We also raise soldiers through training


Incredible!
Amazing!
"Heyyup!"
"Heyyup..!"


Well...
Now, the man who tried to kill you...
Alunge is an old friend.
I guess this old man's surprisingly observant.

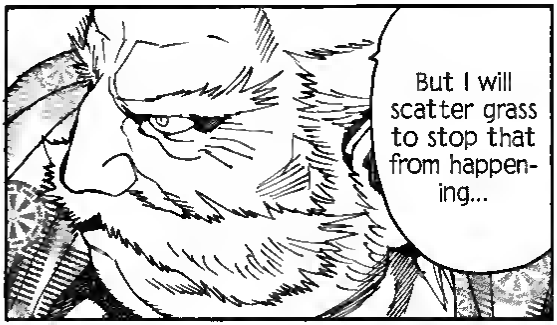
Our meeting here was fate.
So, I was hoping you could overlook it this time.

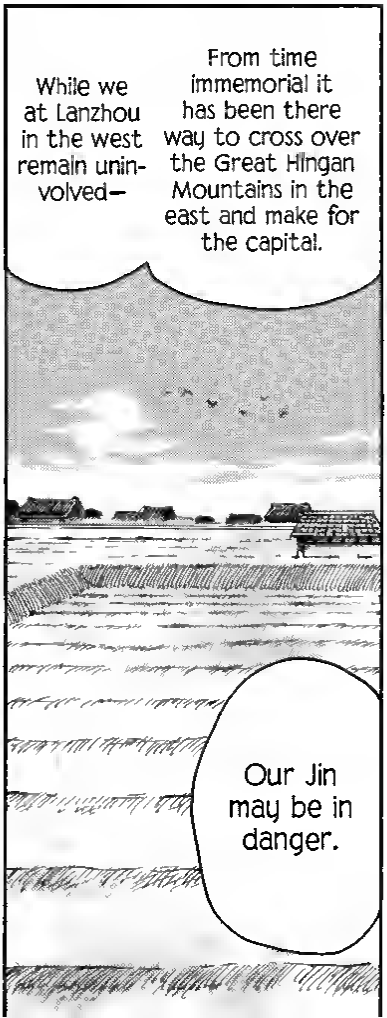
20

I see you're an optimistic man.
I'm a bit taken with you.
Sit, Ibaha.

The enemy has gobbled up Western Xia and seems to possess unlimited military strength.
It will come to a war with the Mongols sooner or later.

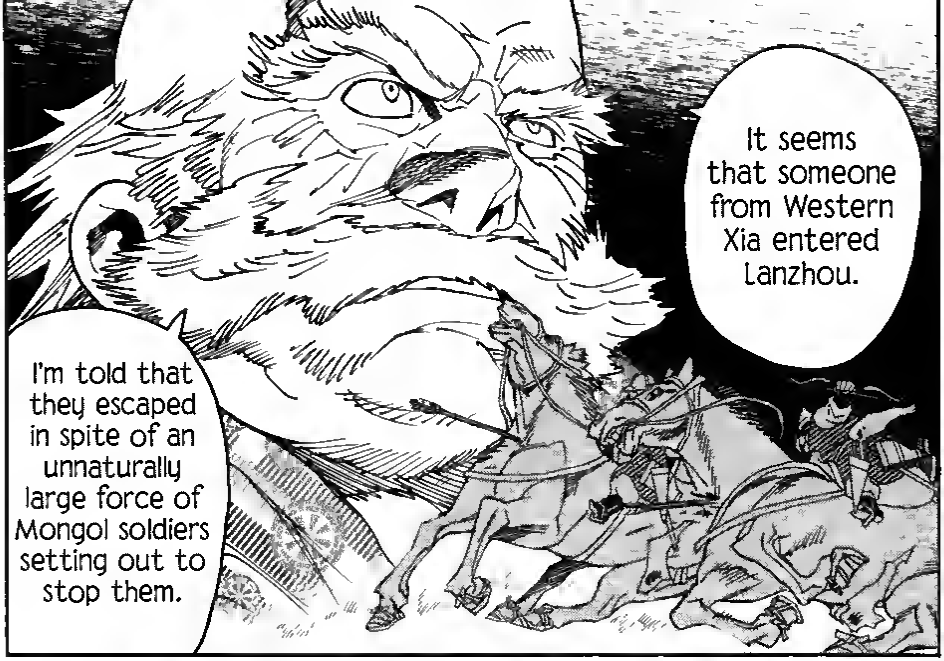



But I will scatter grass to stop that from happening...

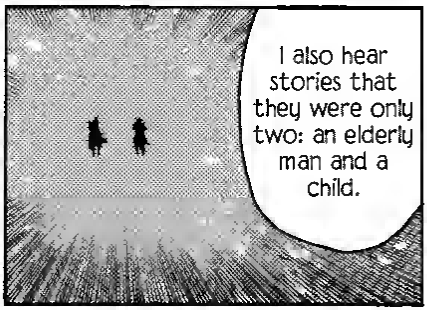

While we at Lanzhou in the west remain uninvolved—
From time immemorial it has been there way to cross over the Great Hingan Mountains in the east and make for the capital.
Our Jin may be in danger.

I see... is there really a grass that will do that?
It's not a grass you can see.

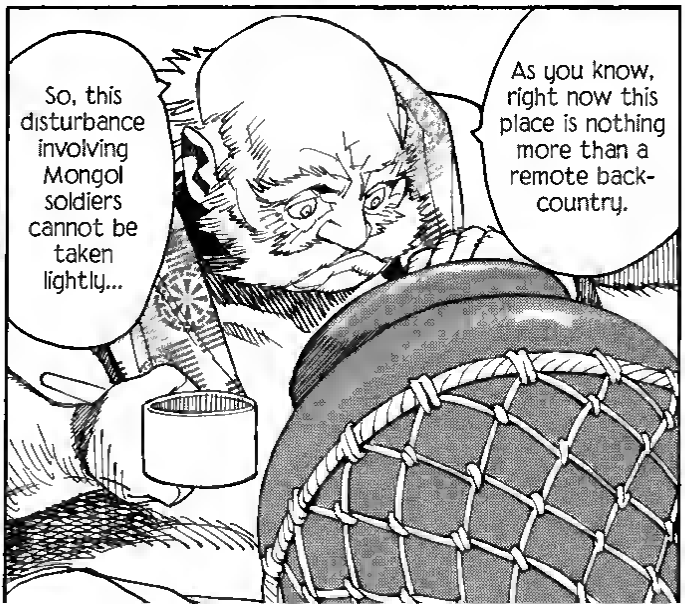
—Last night, there was a disturbance on the river at the border.


It seems that someone from Western Xia entered Lanzhou.
I'm told that they escaped in spite of an unnaturally large force of Mongol soldiers setting out to stop them.

The old man and the kid...?

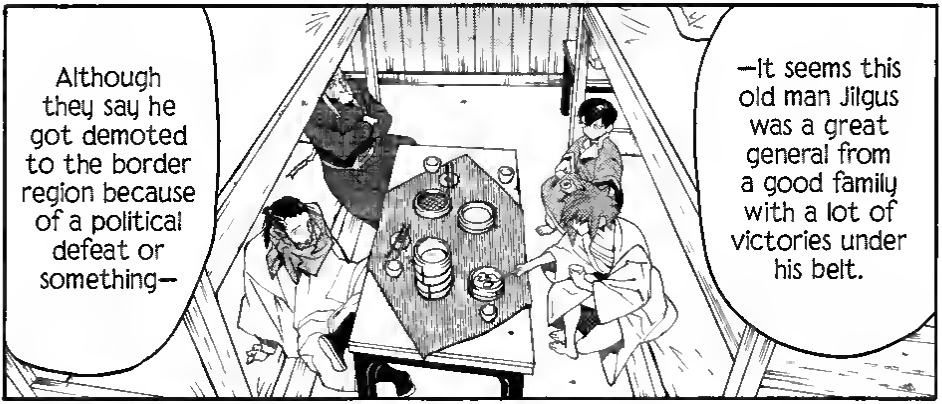

I also hear stories that they were only two: an elderly man and a child.

Hey, those are two whole water jugs.
Is he gonna drink until they're both empty?

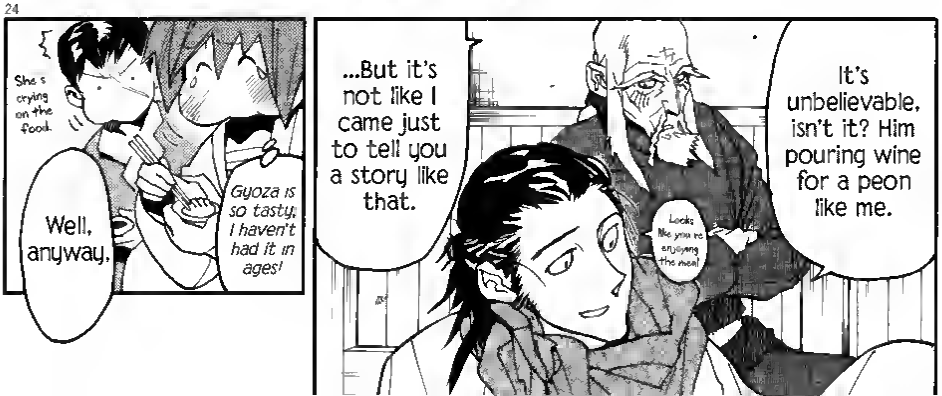

So, this disturbance involving Mongol soldiers cannot be taken lightly...
As you know, right now this place is nothing more than a remote back-country.

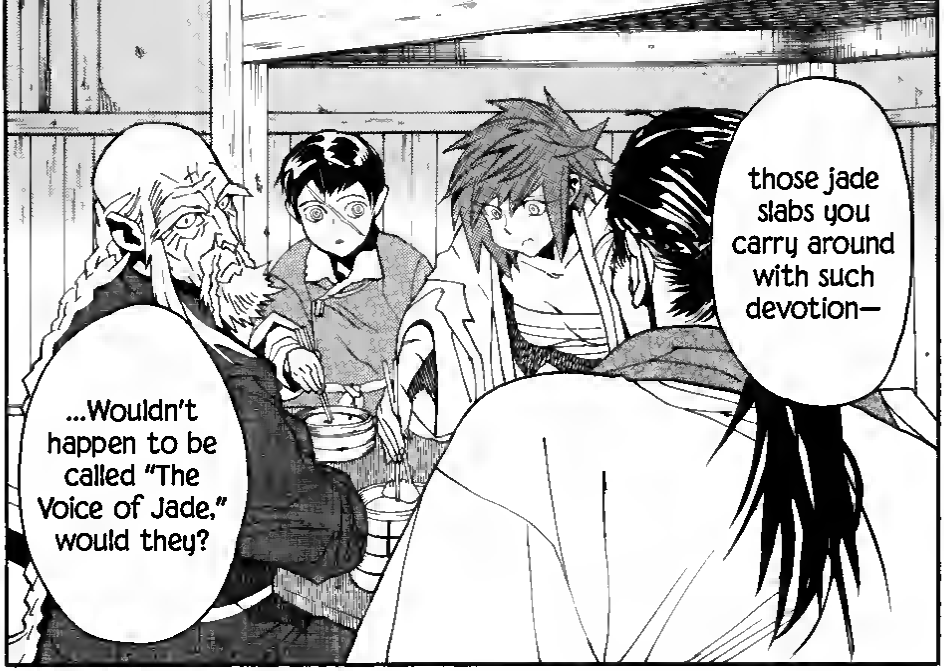
What do you think?
that Tangut officials are carrying valuables out of the country in small groups?
Is it a civil offical—no, a military officer? Haven't you heard rumors
I'm told you were in Western Xia. Isn't that right, Ibaha?
I just thought that now, with attention concentrated in the northeast,
the Tangut might try to carry the Voice of Jade away through this region.
so I only saw the occasional down on his luck merchant.
No... But I was in a rural area,
This is wine!
It's a pity, but I hear the products of Tangut civilization were all burned up by the Mongols.

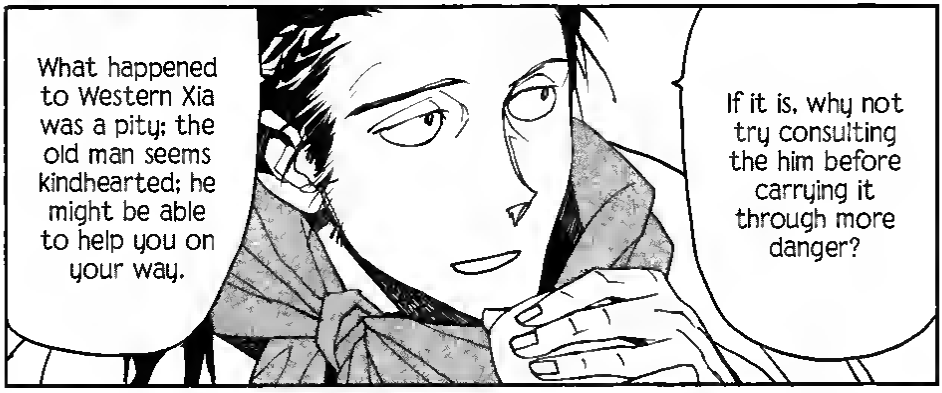
"The Voice of Jade?"
It's nothing; you may return.
I'll call you again to ask for more stories of Western Xia.


Although they say he got demoted to the border region because of a political defeat or something—
—It seems this old man Jilgus was a great general from a good family with a lot of victories under his belt.




She's crying on the food.
Well, anyway,
Gyoza is so tasty, I haven't had it in ages!
...But it's not like I came just to tell you a story like that.
Looks like you're enjoying the meal
It's unbelievable, isn't it? Him pouring wine for a peon like me.

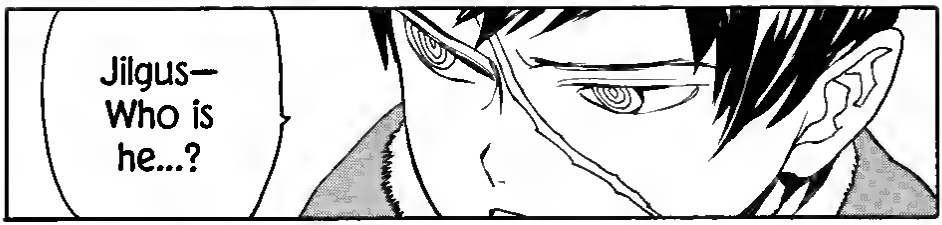

those jade slabs you carry around with such devotion—
...Wouldn't happen to be called "The Voice of Jade," would they?


What happened to Western Xia was a pity; the old man seems kindhearted; he might be able to help you on your way.
If it is, why not try consulting the him before carrying it through more danger?

Hey!
The old man shut the window

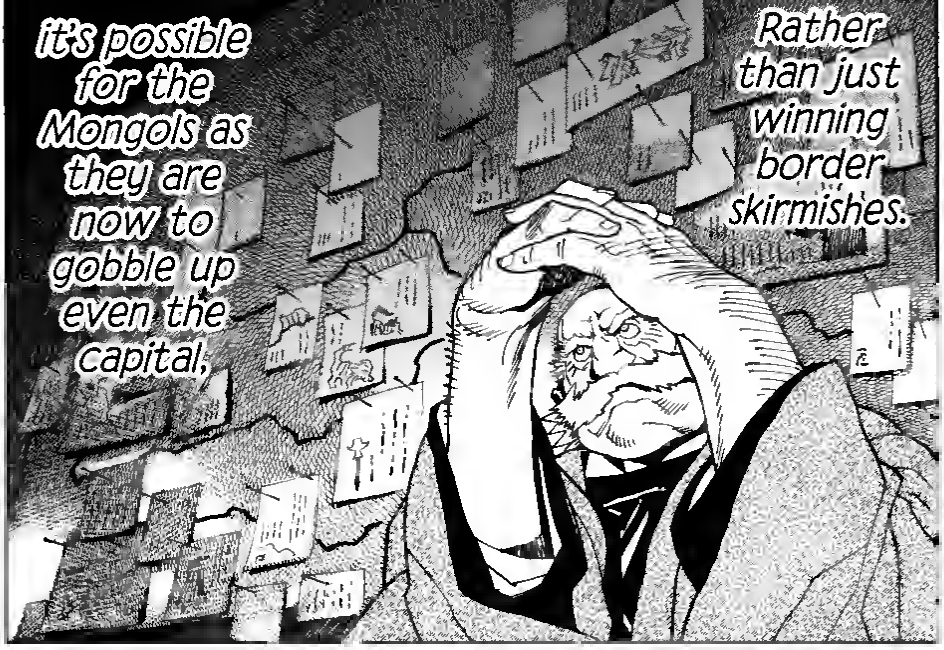
—See you later, Sudoh. I'll come again. Think of me.
I'll come by again, okay?

Even among the Tangut, there were few who knew of it...
—Why does someone from Jin... and a frontier general at that, know of the existence of the Voice of Jade—?


Jilgus— Who is he...?

26

The Mongols are moving faster than I thought; war could break out tomorrow...
Good work. You may withdraw.
North, towards Xingqing. The Tsog tribe, who appeared to be of importance to the Mongols, have been executed following a revolt.
Good work. You may withdraw.
Northeast, towards the Liao River. The Mongols seem to be in contact with the Han and Khitan, tempting them to separate from Jin.

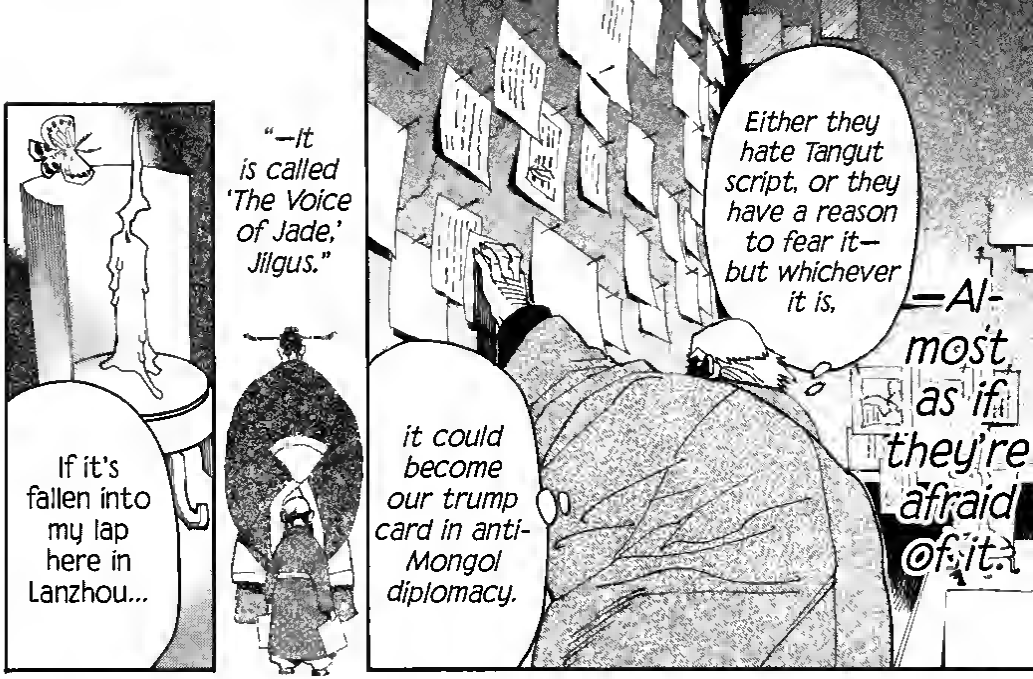

it's possible for the Mongols as they are now to gobble up even the capital,
Rather than just winning border skirmishes.

"He lost his head over that Tangut woman and has been looking after her somehow."
"If you put the screws to Ibaha, he's bound to confess something."

Ibaha has returned. It seems he went out to meet someone.
...Good work. You may withdraw.

...According to rumor, the Mongols are quite tenacious about burning Tangut writing...

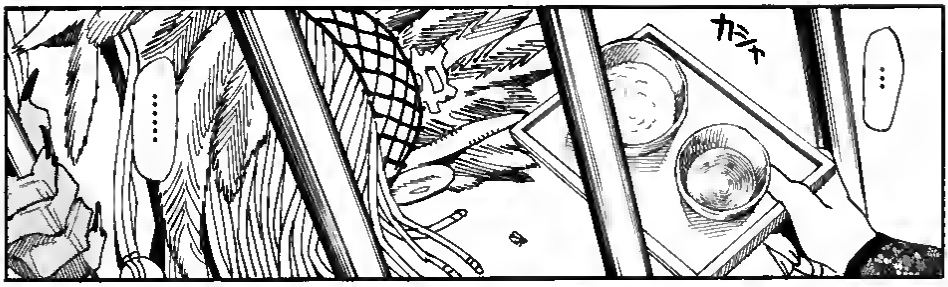
"They were lugging around nine huge slabs of jade."
"I don't know if they escaped to someplace or were killed when we were beaten by the Mongols, but—"


"—It is called 'The Voice of Jade,' Jilgus."
If it's fallen into my lap here in Lanzhou...
it could become our trump card in anti-Mongol diplomacy.
Either they hate Tangut script, or they have a reason to fear it—but whichever it is,
—Almost as if they're afraid of it.

28

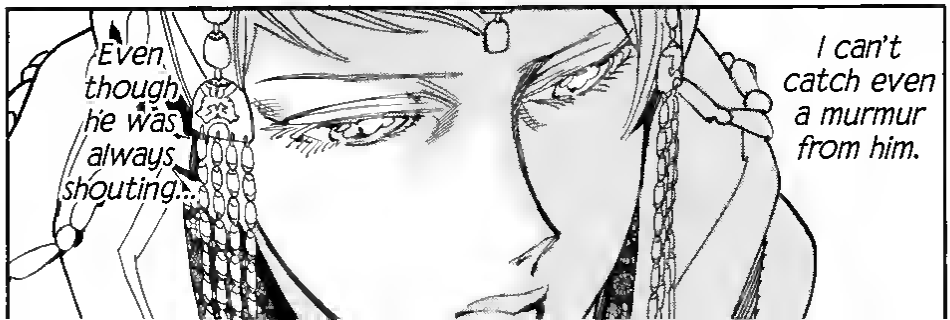
Then I will obtain it for Jin.

SHUT HELL
By Itoh Yu
Translation: OtherSideofSky
Cleaning: Riron Wakabayashy
Lettering & Redraws: Nethandle
happyscans.blogspot.com


カシャ
……
……

...Can't you eat?
……
……
Chapter XXXVII Scars of the Soul




Even though he was always shouting...
I can't catch even a murmur from him.

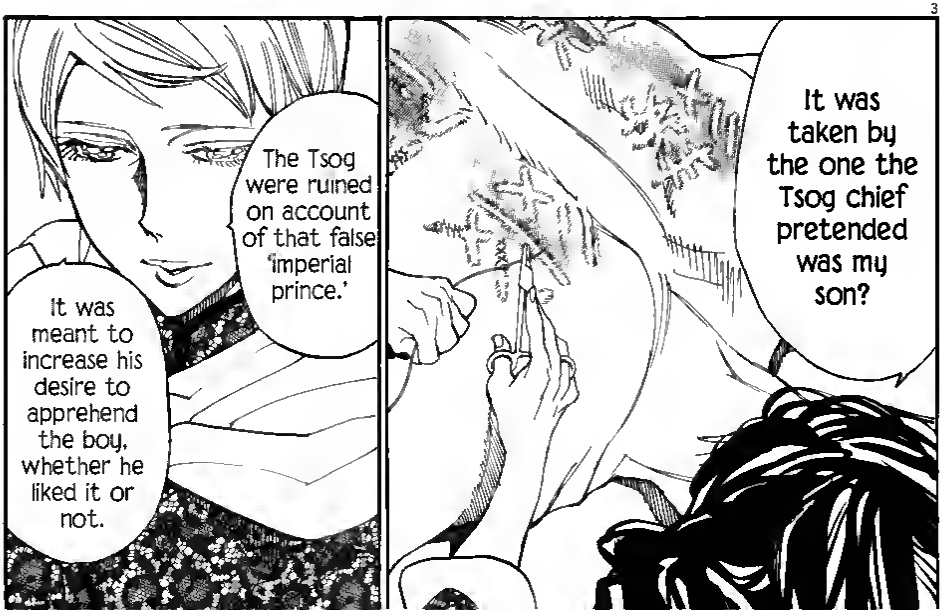
He will become the king of the world, won't he?
I believe so as well...

All alone.
ハア
Even if you were shouting the true future,
ズル…
even in your last moments, it was taken as nothing but incoherent rambling.
—That's how you lived.

The Voice of Jade has crossed the Yellow River and entered Jin.

was the assistance of the somehow living bandit, "Shut Hell."
The reason it was able to slip through the troops deployed at the river–




It was taken by the one the Tsog chief pretended was my son?
The Tsog were ruined on account of that false 'imperial prince.'
It was meant to increase his desire to apprehend the boy, whether he liked it or not.

Harabal is heading for him.
He should be able to recover The Voice of Jade without difficulty, even in Jin territory.
"Imperial prince?" And what did they hope for if he was,
that the child would become my enemy ...?
Heh heh ...
I decided I want to remember.
so I wrote down everything so far.
The things I've seen, and the people I've met.

Who's that...?
"Yu-rui"
That's right; she dimly...
dimly remem-bered-
-Aren't you going to kill me.
-About Shut Hell, too?
Shut Hell?

...Yeah.

When we were talking about what word to memorize first-
Wow.
About you too, Sudoh; up to the day we sepa-rated.
Xingqing, the city of salt, Alfald, Ibaha.

SLICE
the memories that
– Yurui can't have forgotten
accompany that scar.

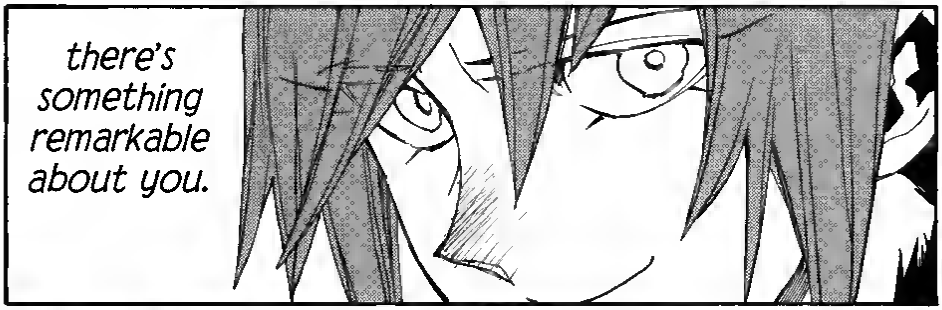
Sudoh.
I killed him, and you're alive.
made him stab someone.

It's not like I have an answer, but it was my choice.
I don't regret it.
I made it the same.
Look!
ずい
7
Because you weren't killed back there.
–You completed your promise to me,
ガシ
"And you'll teach me more charac-ters."
"I really will make you a new one."
I see...
THROB

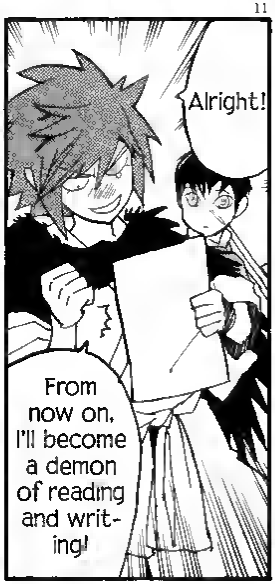
—I will...
I want you to get to like it too, Sudoh.
Because of that, I like this scar on my face.

By the way, are you alright, Sudoh?
No, I've already stopped, really.
–Why don't I go over how to read the part up to yesterday?
Now then,
Oh, I see. That way I can do reading and writing together.
I decided on how we should do it.
Well then, both of us will write it starting tomorrow.
SNIFF
Did you think about it while I was away?

–Somehow...
Because I knew we'd meet again.


there's something remarkable about you.

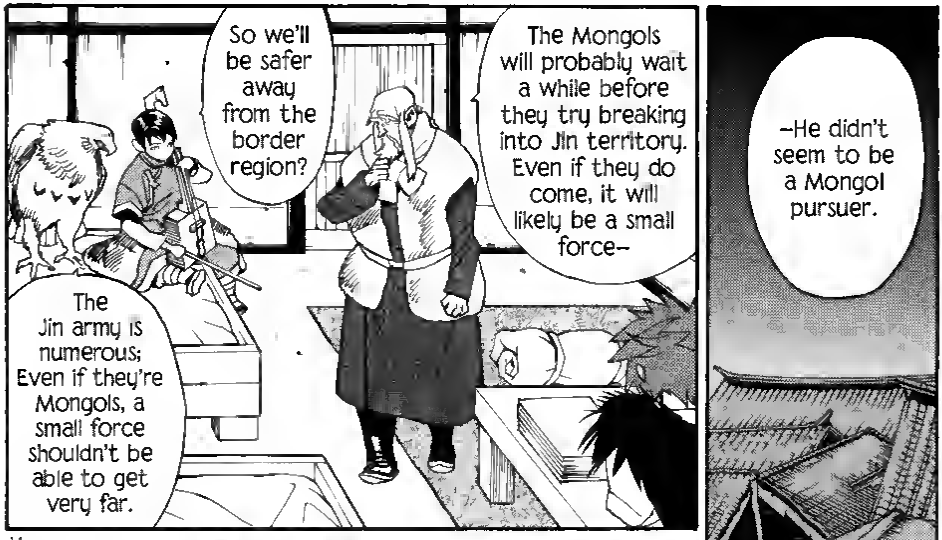
Hey-
Ha ha ha, just kidding
Huh, really?
That's upside-down, Sudoh.


Alright!
From now on, I'll become a demon of reading and writing!

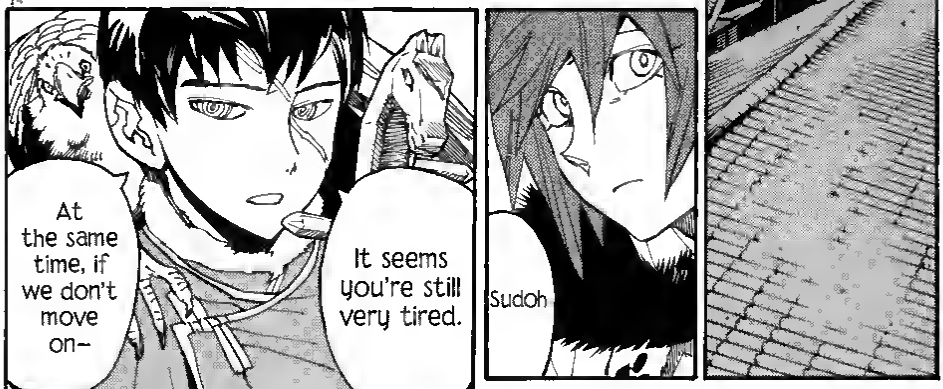
Who are you?
그...!
Mph...
FWIP

So, even changing inns was no use.
But they didn't come to break in and steal The Voice of Jade—
A servant of Jin...?
AH!
13
"Jilgus..." What do you want to know...?
—I suppose we should have had Ibaha investigate after all.
Hey, what's going on?

ガラ…
–If you were going to leave the inn, couldn't you at least have told me something about it...?


So we'll be safer away from the border region?
The Mongols will probably wait a while before they try breaking into Jin territory. Even if they do come, it will likely be a small force–
The Jin army is numerous; Even if they're Mongols, a small force shouldn't be able to get very far.
–He didn't seem to be a Mongol pursuer.

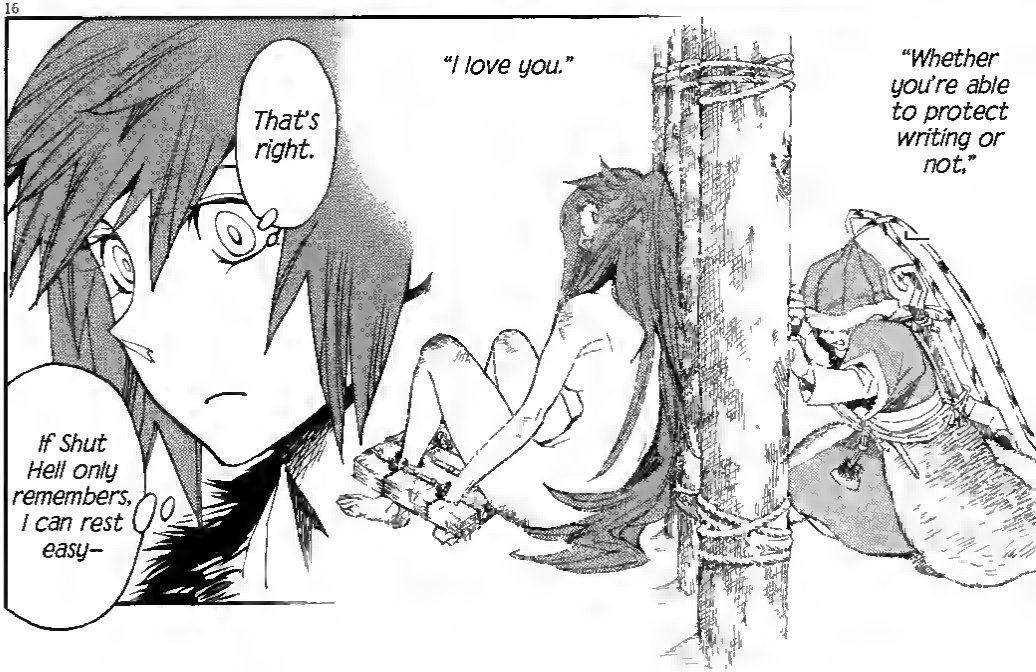
14


At the same time, if we don't move on–
It seems you're still very tired.
Sudoh

I'll do it.
It sounds like we don't have much time.
Would you read this for me?
Huh? Sure.
Time?
–I'm worn out like this because I was too reckless.
Me and Shut Hell are two people stuffed into one body.
Shut Hell's senses are growing stronger every time she comes out,
and as for me...
Next time...
Or the time after that... eventually...

The way she was before meeting Yurul.
But the current Shut Hell only wants to kill Mongols–
Eventually, I'll probably be chased out.
I have to get her to remember all about Yurul.
Before I'm chased out,




"I love you."
"Whether you're able to protect writing or not,"
That's right.
If Shut Hell only remembers, I can rest easy–

–What will happen to me?
Suzuki-san...
I might return to the present.
might be there.
Or else–
That scene is so far away... like a movie I only dimly remember.
Can I go back like this?
–Ah...
Or will I
disappear to somewhere and cease to exist?

You'll leave a written record of me too, won't you?

Yurul.

Waa !?

Shut Hell.

I see...

...I think I suddenly realized something.

That's right.

?



Even if this body becomes Shut Hell's alone,

Let's keep going, Yurul.

*that sense of relief that came down on you like lightning.*

*That time, you... How should I put it,*

I'll remember Yurul.
I want to
leave it all here.
19
Are there days when the burns on your back hurt?
...Yes. Why do you ask—?
The scars remain, but they never bleed like yours do.
Veronika.

Beneath my skin, my soul burns even now.
Grr...
Rrrrr...
구구구구
하아-
You were saved by this runt.
–Well, this is a surprise.

We said we wouldn't kill the kids if he didn't cry out—
but I never thought he'd hold out to the end.
Never think about stealing anything from the Great Xia again.
Not even one sheep or a single copper coin.
Writing remains; you'll never forget.
Remember that well, barbarian brats.

It says there that you're a slave to the Tangut.
In letters that will never fade.

–We'll never forget this debt as long we live...!
Thank you, Temujin, thank you..!

But as time passed, even the looks in their eyes changed ...
–They all spoke words of gratitude. ...Then.
It's hard to say this, but we can't follow you anymore.
Temujin.
23
The shame burned into your back will never go away, right?
We feel bad for you, but you have to understand.
"Why?"... Really...?
Why?

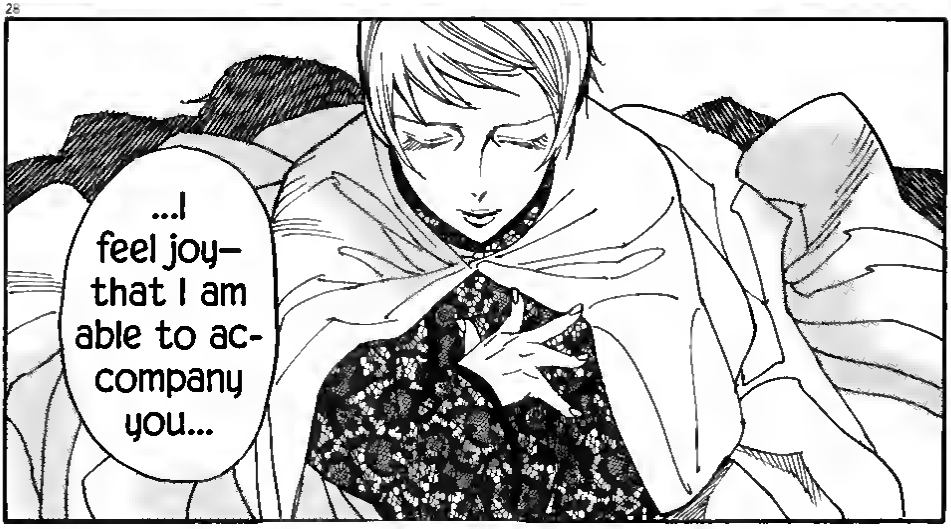
They were looks of scorn.
The eyes of those who had been my friends saw a slave.
24
The writing of Western Xia—
Does this mean that scorn will continue to erupt from my back as long as it exists?
Then I'll burn them all.
Because of mere letters.
Do they mean to make a wolf live like a pig?

With just as much fire as it takes.

That's right. Me and you.
–Using fire to burn away wounds made by fire...

If The Voice of Jade has entered Jin...
I will burn in order to conquer.
I will make fire my own.

28




**Continued in "Shut Hell" Volume 6...**

【手伝ってくれた人々】
井口文枝
松山由希
前嶋重機
渡邉忠司

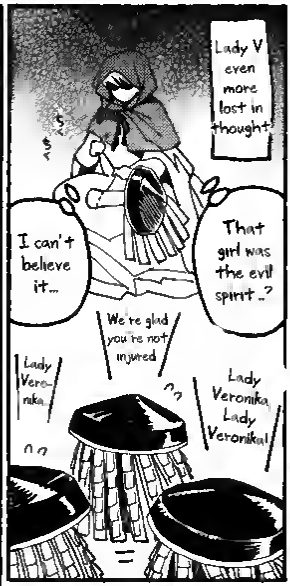
【感　謝】
荒川慎太郎（東京外国語大学アジア・アフリカ言語文化研究所准教授）
佐藤貴保（新潟大学研究推進機構超域学術院准教授）

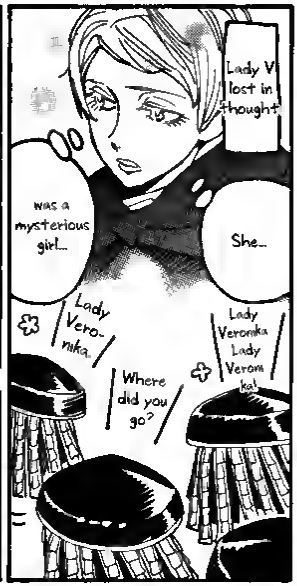
【装　幀】
孝橋淳二

The soldiers serving under Veronika are dedicated combat-ants.

Someone like me, someone like me—
Telling someone like me to get up right after I was badly in-jured—
Yesterday I caught a glance through my hyphae
The pet name for them at work is "Shiitake."

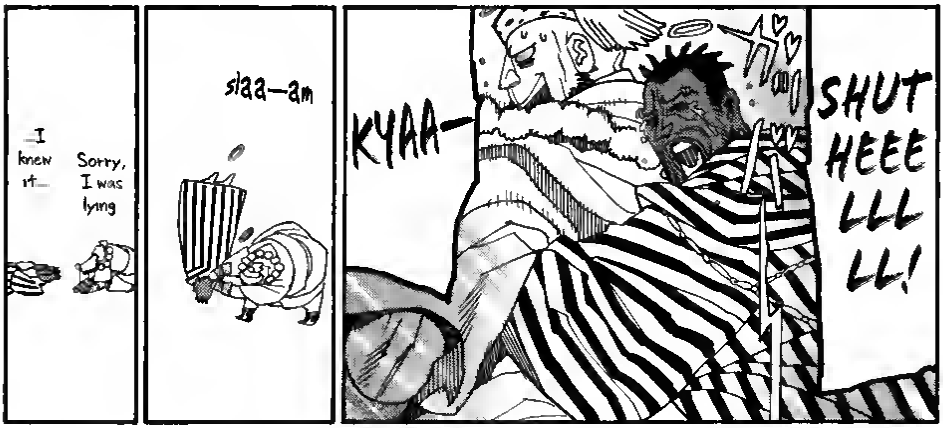
So— w-when are we going home—?
Shiitake have more vitaman D if you dry them
When you're all completely dried up
Their reward


Lady V even more lost in thought
I can't believe it...
That girl was the evil spirit..?
We're glad you're not injured
Lady Vero-nika
Lady Veronika Lady Veronika!


Lady V lost in thought
was a mysterious girl...
She...
Lady Vero-nika
Where did you go?
Lady Veronika Lady Veron ika!

Lady V gets annoyed.

He's dead.
But isn't he dead?
The immortal Lord Shut Hell is waiting for his Cassis Oolong!
Hey, isn't my Cassis Oolong ready yet?
Rejoice; a new customer—



I feel like I ate enough Gyoza for four people, collapsed, and had a weird dream... what the hell was I doing...?

# シュトヘル5

ビッグ スピリッツ コミックス スペシャル

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happyscans.blogspot.com